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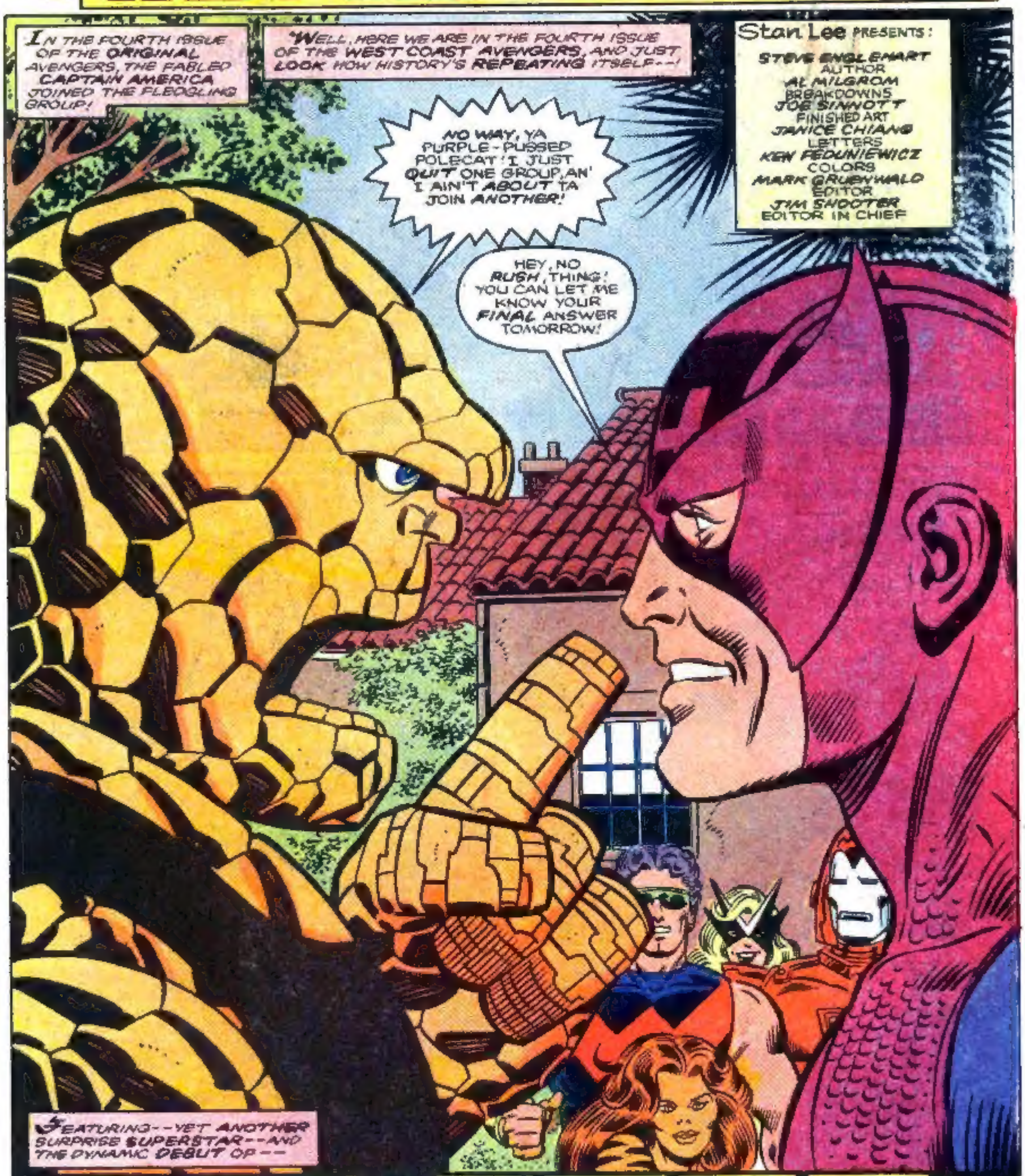
JAN
The West Coast Avengers
HIS NAME IS...
MASTER PANDEMONIUM!

The WEST COAST AVENGERS



MASTER PANDEMONIUM!

WEST COAST AVENGERS™ Vol. 2, No. 4, January, 1986. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly.
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SCENE: THE WEST COAST AVENGERS COMPOUND IN L.A. ...

HEY, I HEARD THIS GUY WAS HAVIN' TROUBLE WITH HIS BARS, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I SAY NO AND HE HEARS MAYBE!

MUST MAKE IT INTERESTIN' BEIN' MARRIED TO 'IM, MOCKIN'BIRD!

BUT, BEN, THIS IS A NATURAL! WE'VE GOT THE SLOT FOR JUST ONE MORE MEMBER, AND EVERYBODY NEEDS A GROUP TO HANG OUT WITH--!

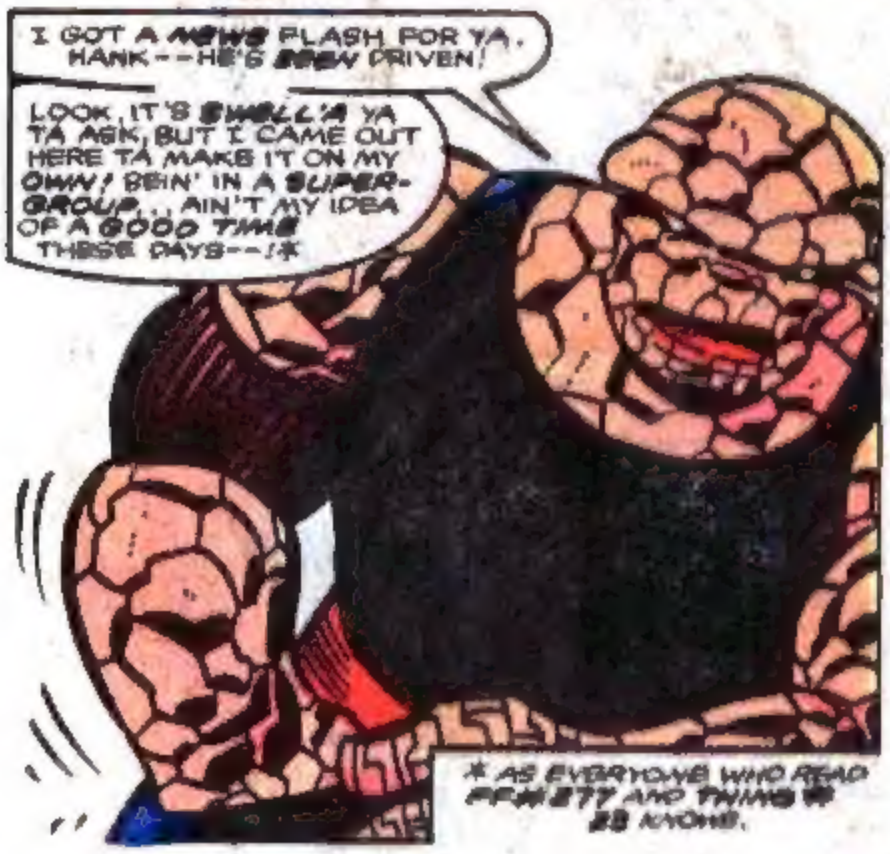
WAIT A MINUTE, HAWKEYE! YOU'VE GONE OFF ON YOUR OWN ALMOST AS OFTEN AS I HAVE!

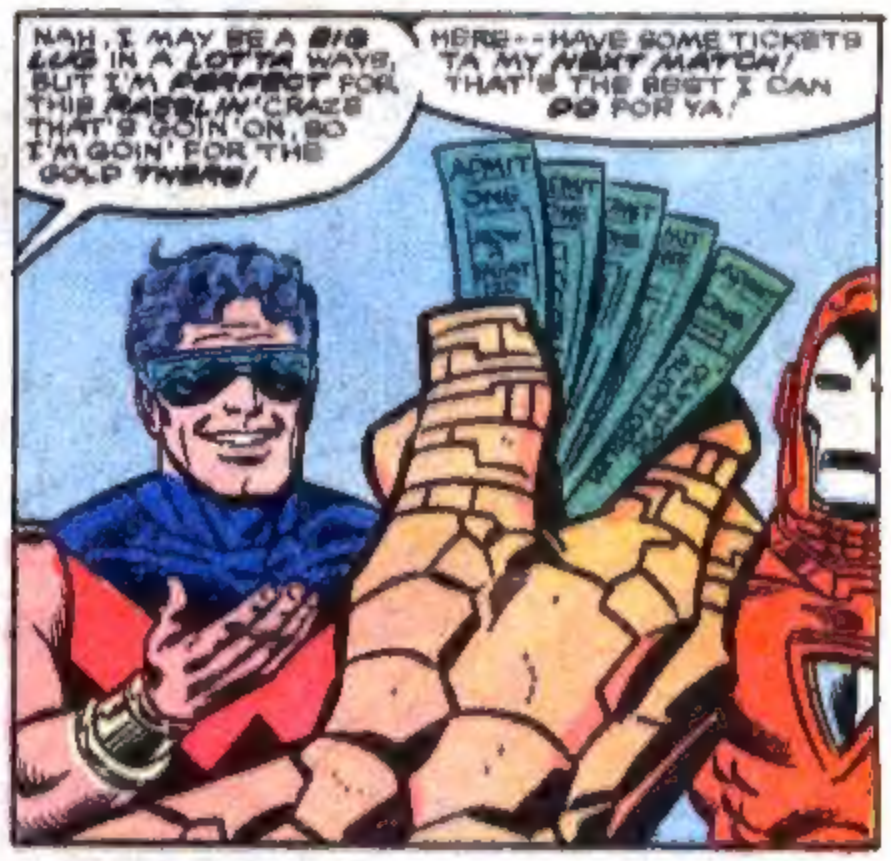
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, TIGRA?

TRUTH AND JUSTICE, I'D SAY!

BUT EVEN WITH WONDER MAN AND MYSELF, WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE POWER!

AND HAVING THAT SIXTH SLOT OPEN IS DRIVING OUR CHAIRMAN CRAZY, BEN!





MEANWHILE, BACK OUT BY THE COMPOUND'S FRONT GATE...

HOLY--! I CLEAN FORGOT WHAT I WENT IN THERE FOR IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I STILL NEED TA CALL TRIALS-A TA COME FIX MY BIKE'S FLAT TIRE!

AH, WELL. I WUZ GONNA SAVE MY STRENGTH FOR THE BLOND BLASTER T'NIGHT, BUT I AIN'T GOIN' BACK IN THAT LOONY BIN--

--SO--

--I'LL JUST CART IT TA THE GARAGE MYSELF!

THAT HAWKEYE--! HE ALWAYS WUZ ONE TO DO EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY ELSE SAID, BUT I THINK HE'S BEEN STANDIN' IN THE CALIFORNIA SUN TOO LONG THIS TIME!

THEY DO LOOK KIND OF FUN-- TIGRA DID OKAY BY HERSELF WHEN SHE HUNG OUT WITH THE FF*, AN' IRON MAN'S ONE A THE CERTIFIED GOOD GUYS-- BUT STILL--

* FOH 177-188.

HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE THE TORCH-- FALLIN' OUTTA THE SKY!

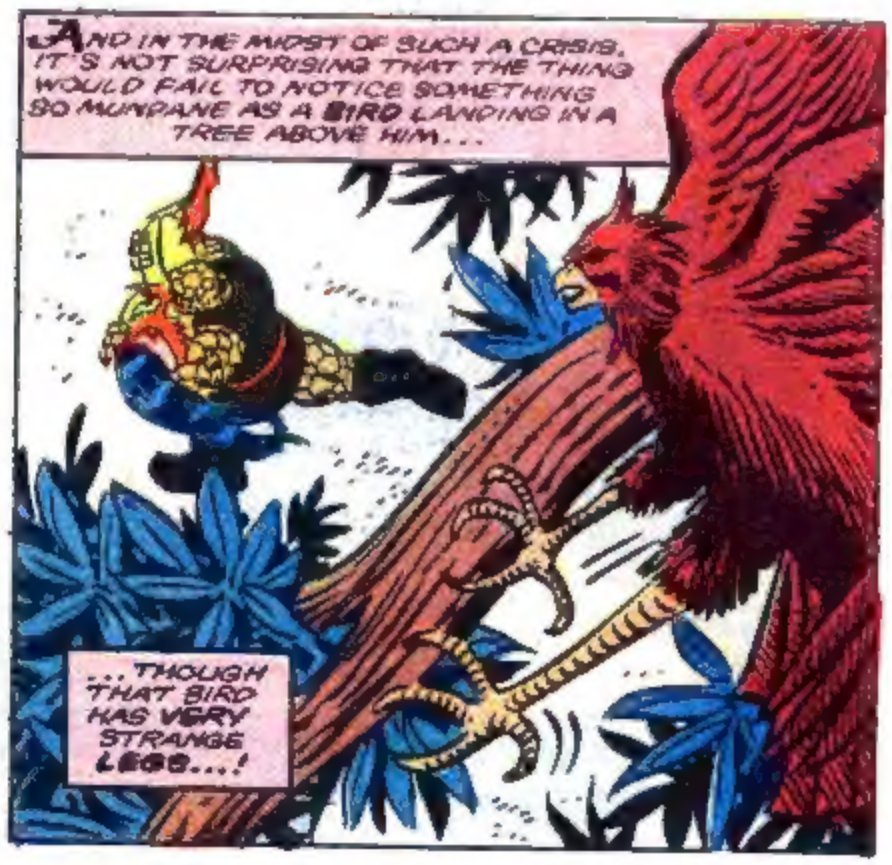
BACKSTABBIN' LITTLE PUNK! I OUGHTA LET HIM CRASH, AFTER THE WAY HE STOLE ALICIA FROM ME--

--BUT THAT AIN'T THE WAY MY AUNT PETUNIA BRUNG ME UP!

WHUMP!
YOW! HE'S NEVER THIS HOT WHEN HE'S KAYOED!
GOOD THING MY ITTY BITTY BOD CAN STAND UP TA 'MOST ANY-THING--

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS AIN'T JOHNNY!
NO KIDDIN', SHERLOCK! IT'S A GIRL!
PAN... PANDE...

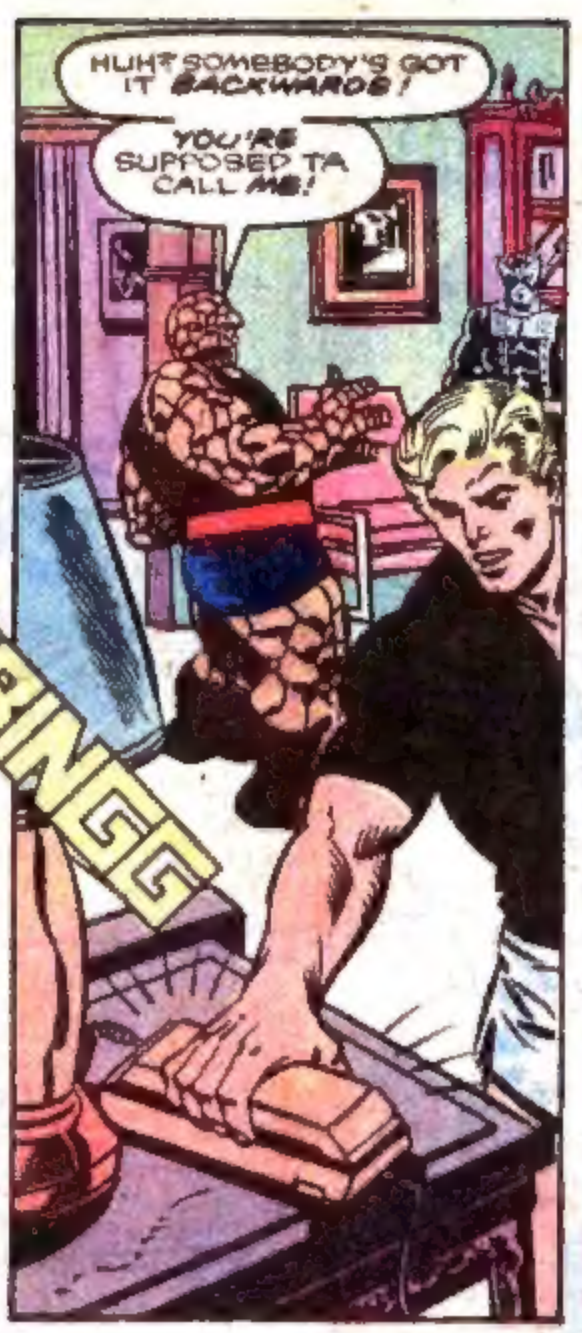
WHAT'S SHE TRYIN' TA SAY--SHE WUZ ATTACKED BY A PANDA BEAR? I HEARD A TIGRAS AN' WOLVERINES AN' COYOTES, BUT NO PANDAS!
WELL, SHE NEEDS HELP, AN' THE NEAREST PLACE IS THE AVENGERS' PAD, SO I GUESS I'M GOIN' BACK THERE WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT!


AND IN THE MIDST OF SUCH A CRISIS, IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THE THING WOULD FAIL TO NOTICE SOMETHING SO MUNDANE AS A BIRD LANDING IN A TREE ABOVE HIM...
...THOUGH THAT BIRD HAS VERY STRANGE LEGS...!

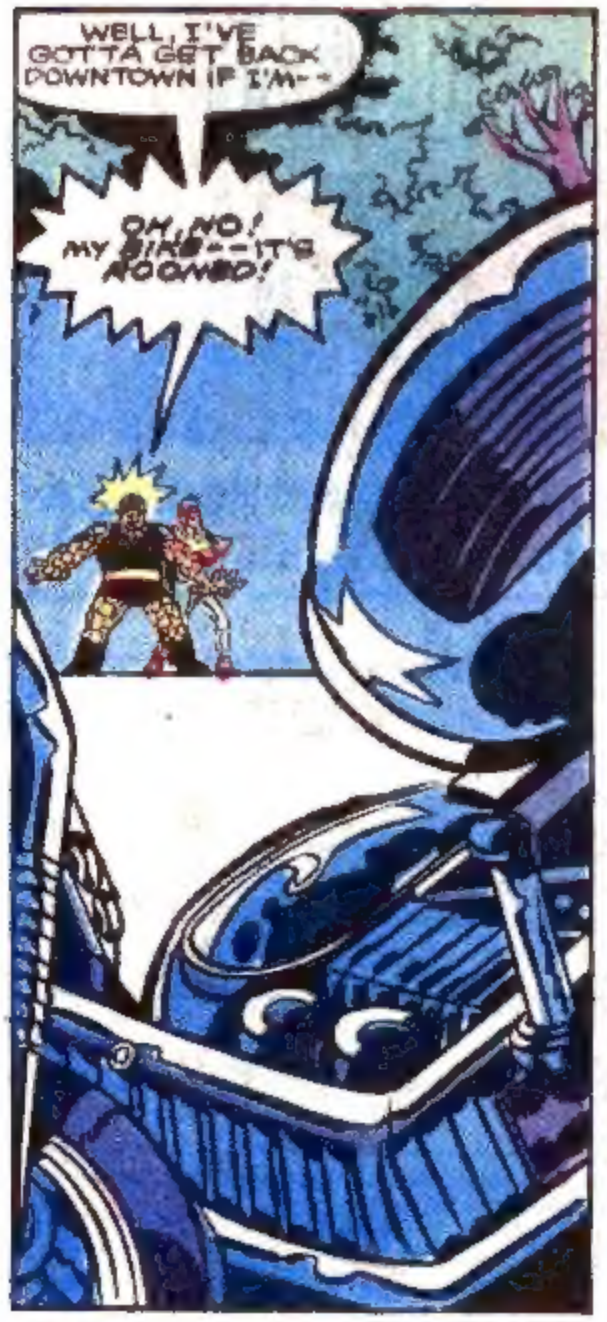
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED--!
HAWKEYE--THE THING'S BACK!
I KNEW IT! I TOLD YOU GUYS--!

DON'T GET YER HOPES UP! I'M JUST DELIVERIN' YER AIRMAIL!
WHO IS SHE?
HECK IF I KNOW!
LET ME SEE HER! I WAS TRAINED IN S.H.I.E.L.D. EMERGENCY MEDICINE!

AND AFTER BEN GRIMM FILLS THEM IN...
GIMME A CALL WHEN YOU FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
OF COURSE, AVENGER!
I AIN'T NO AVENGER! I'M JUST CURIOUS!
THAT'S A GOOD FIRST STEP!
LOOK, JUST GIMME A CALL--


RRINGG
HUH? SOMEBODY'S GOT IT BACKWARDS!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TA CALL ME!

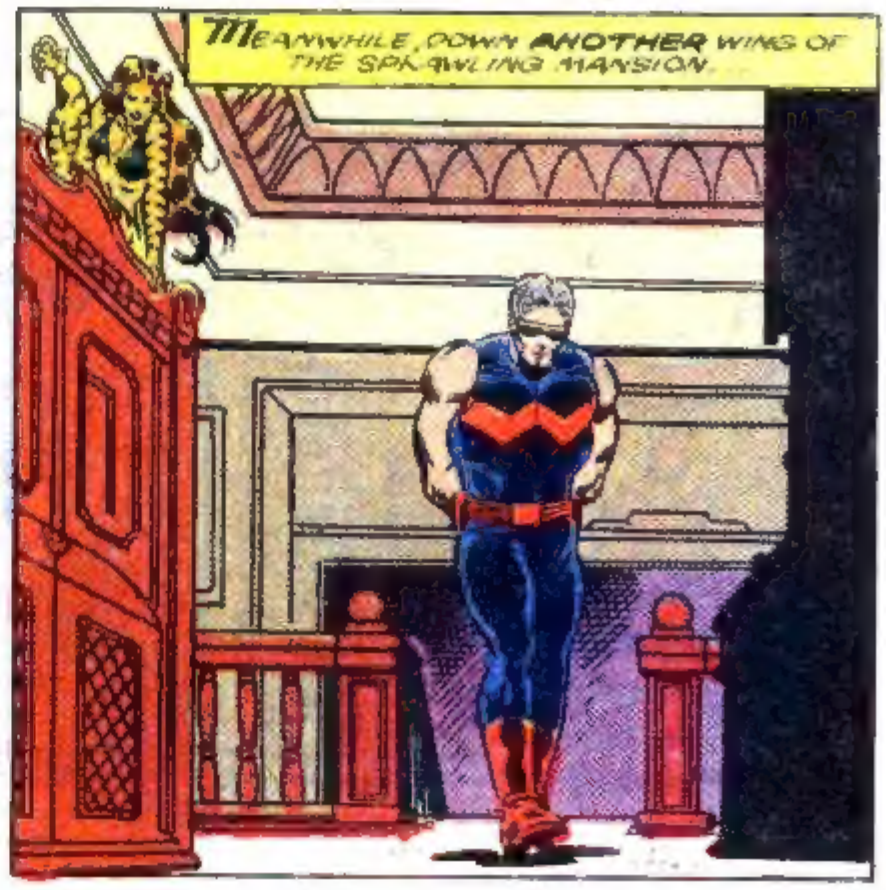
HELLO?
HELLO--?
THAT'S FUNNY-- THERE'S NOBODY THERE, JUST LIKE LAST TIME!* AND I CHECKED THE PHONE LINES THOROUGHLY--!
*LAST ISSUE.

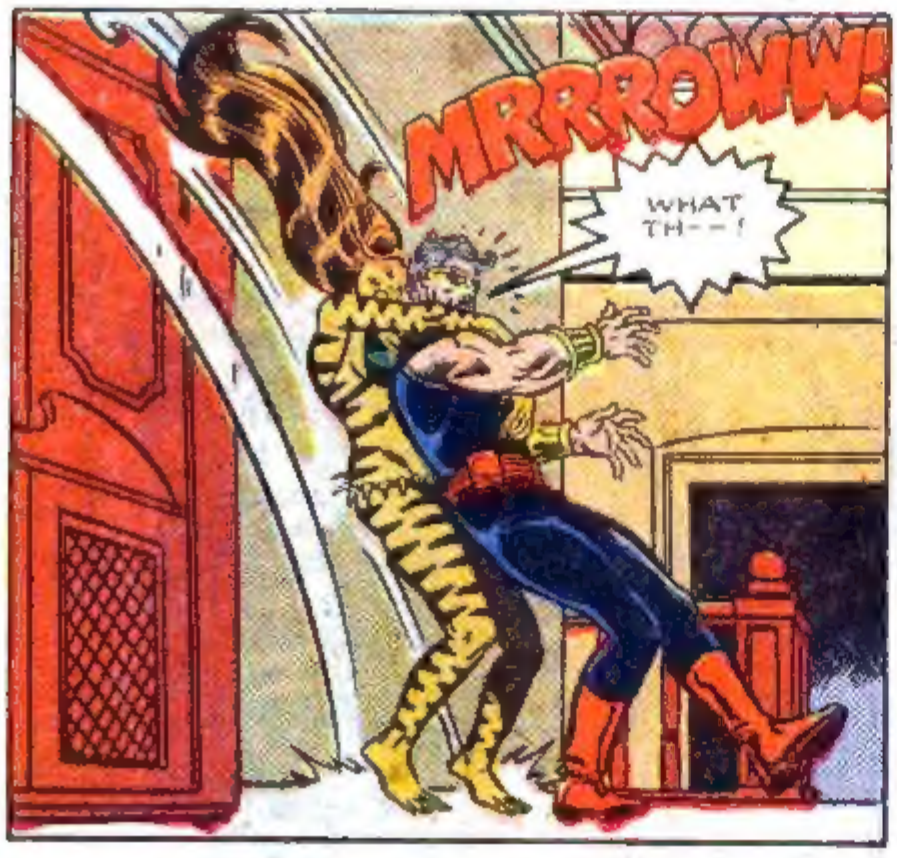

WELL, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK DOWNTOWN IF I'M--
OH, NO! MY BIKE--IT'S HOOKED!

NOT TO WORRY, BEN! I KNOW HOW THOSE THINGS ARE DESIGNED-- WE CAN BEND IT BACK INTO SHAPE TOGETHER--!
WHAT'TA REVOLTIN' DAY!

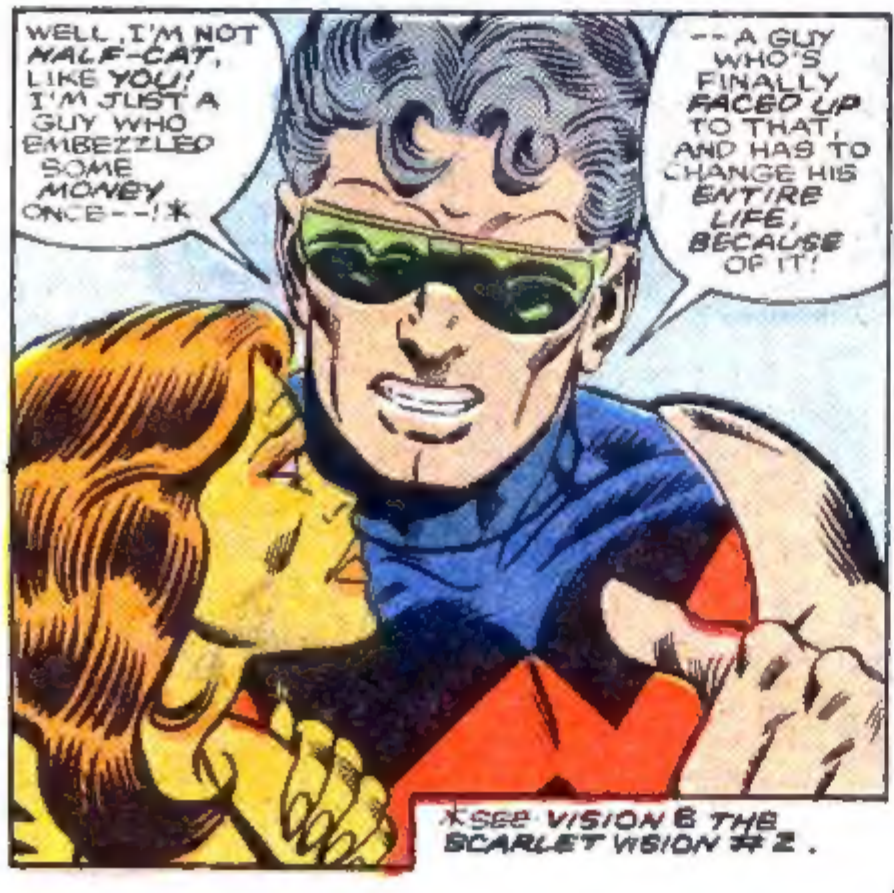
HE'S HOOKED! HAWKEYE, MOCKINGBIRD, TIGRA, IRON MAN, WONDER MAN AND THE THING-- WHAT A TEAM!
THIS'LL REALLY BLOW 'EM OUT BACK EAST!
NOW, CLINT--
--THAT'S NOT THE WAY I HEARD IT!

HANK, IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED SINCE I BECAME CHAIRMAN, IT'S THAT YA HAVE TA THINK BIG--AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE, IT'S THAT YA HAVE TA TREAT EVERYBODY DIFFERENTLY!
YOU SAID YOU FELT THE HERO BIZ WAS WRONG FOR YOU ALMOST FROM THE START, BUT HE'S BEEN A TEAM PLAYER FOREVER! HE THINKS HE WANTS TO BE ALONE NOW, BUT YOU JUST SEE IF HE ISN'T ONE OF US BEFORE THIS IS OVER!
TRUST ME--!

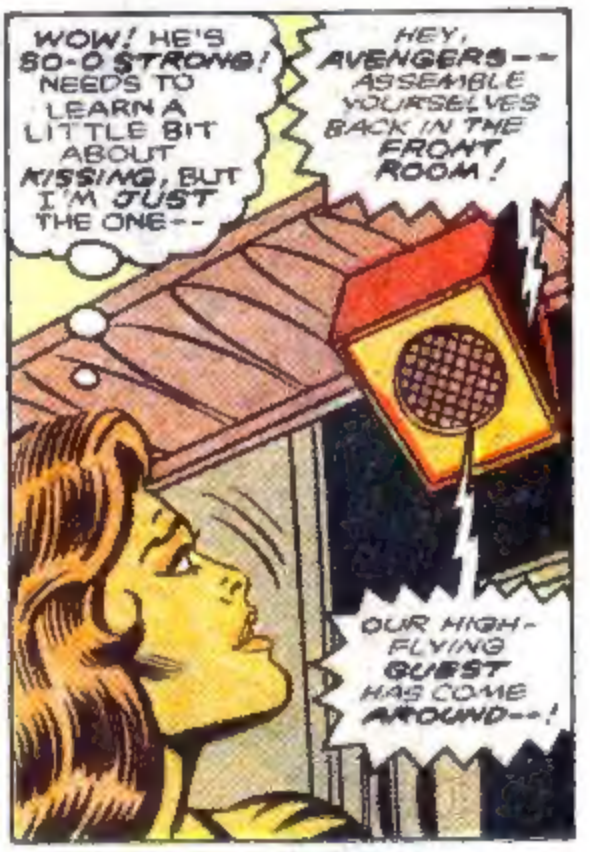

MEANWHILE, DOWN ANOTHER WING OF THE SPRAWLING MANSION...

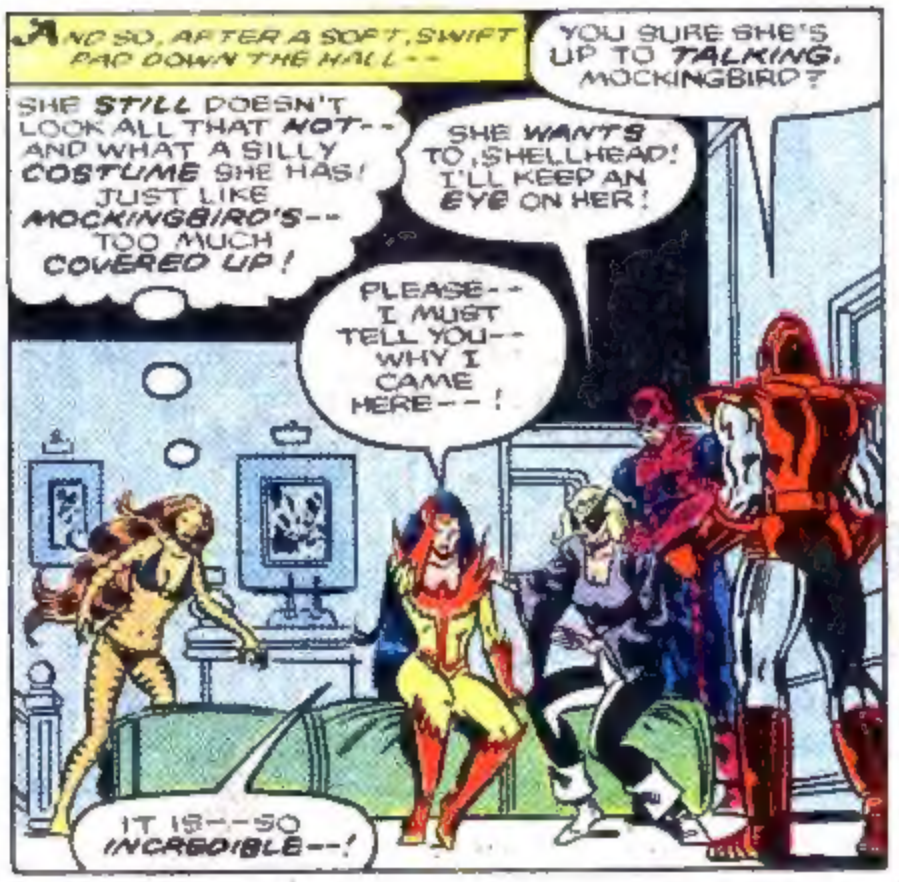

MRRROWW!
WHAT TH--!

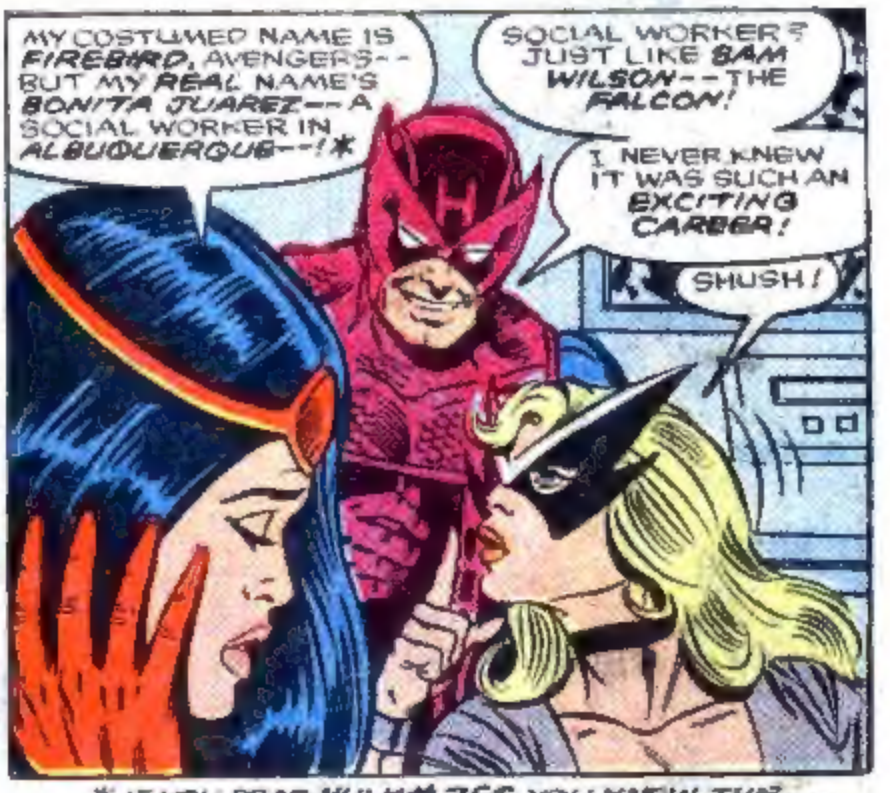
OH--TIGRA!
GEE, SIMON, YOU DON'T SOUND VERY GLAD TO SEE ME!
IT'S NOT THAT, TIGRA. IT'S JUST--I'M THINKING--!
OH--"THINKING"! I USED TO DO THAT, BUT IT GETS IN THE WAY OF MY INSTINCTS!*
*SEE LAST ISSUE.


WELL, I'M NOT HALF-CAT, LIKE YOU! I'M JUST A GUY WHO EMBEZZLED SOME MONEY ONCE--!*
--A GUY WHO'S FINALLY FACED UP TO THAT, AND HAS TO CHANGE HIS ENTIRE LIFE, BECAUSE OF IT!
*SEE VISION & THE SCARLET WSION #2.

GOSH, THIS SOUNDS SERIOUS, SIMON! AND HERE I WAS GOING TO INVITE YOU DOWN TO THE BEACH TO LIE IN THE SUN!
WE ARE, TIGRA! YOU'VE REALLY HELPED ME MAKE THE TRANSITION BACK TO BEING AN AVENGER!
BUT YOU KNOW I SUPPORT YOU IN ANYTHING YOU DO! EVER SINCE WE OPENED UP TO EACH OTHER, *I'VE FELT WE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS!
*IN THE THIRD ISSUE OF THE WCA LIMITED SERIES.





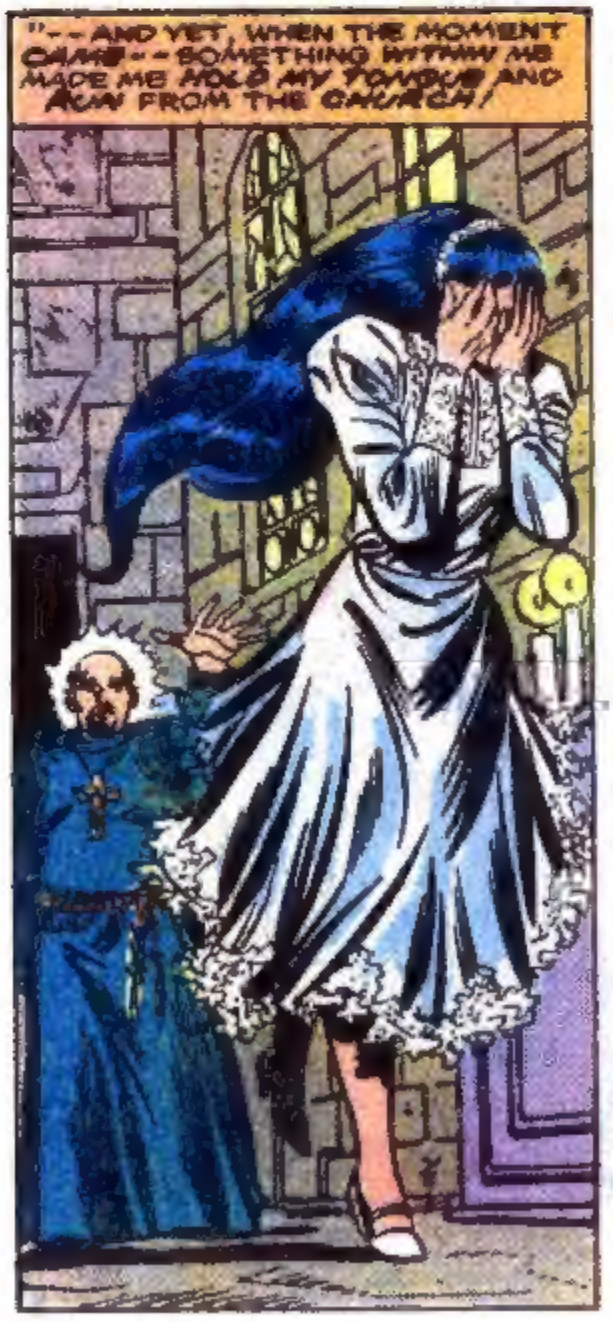


* IF YOU READ HULK # 265, YOU KNEW THIS ALREADY-- BECAUSE YOU SAW HER ONLY PREVIOUS APPEARANCE.

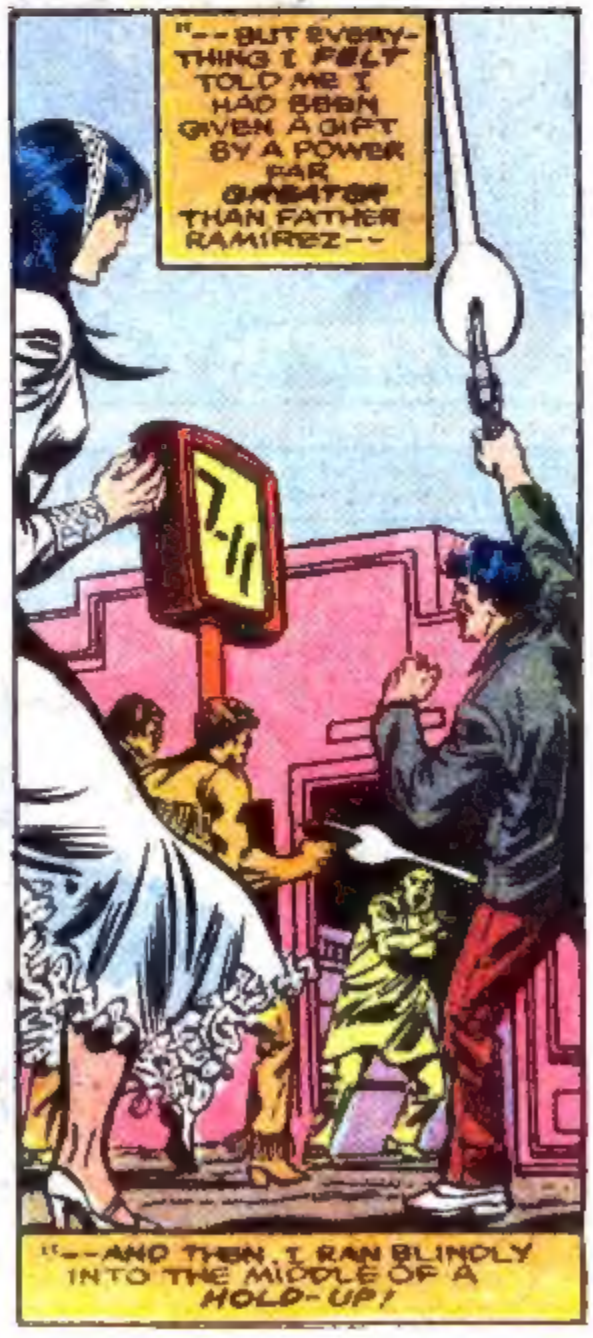
"I WAS BORN IN BUENAVISTA-- THE BARRIO OUTSIDE ALBUQUERQUE! MY PARENTS CAME FROM MEXICO-- LEGALLY--TO TRY TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR MY BROTHERS AND MYSELF!
"AMERICA HAS BEEN GOOD TO THEM! I WAS ABLE TO ATTEND THE STATE COLLEGE AND EARN MY DEGREE, BEFORE THE MONEY RAN SHORT! I WENT RIGHT TO WORK--

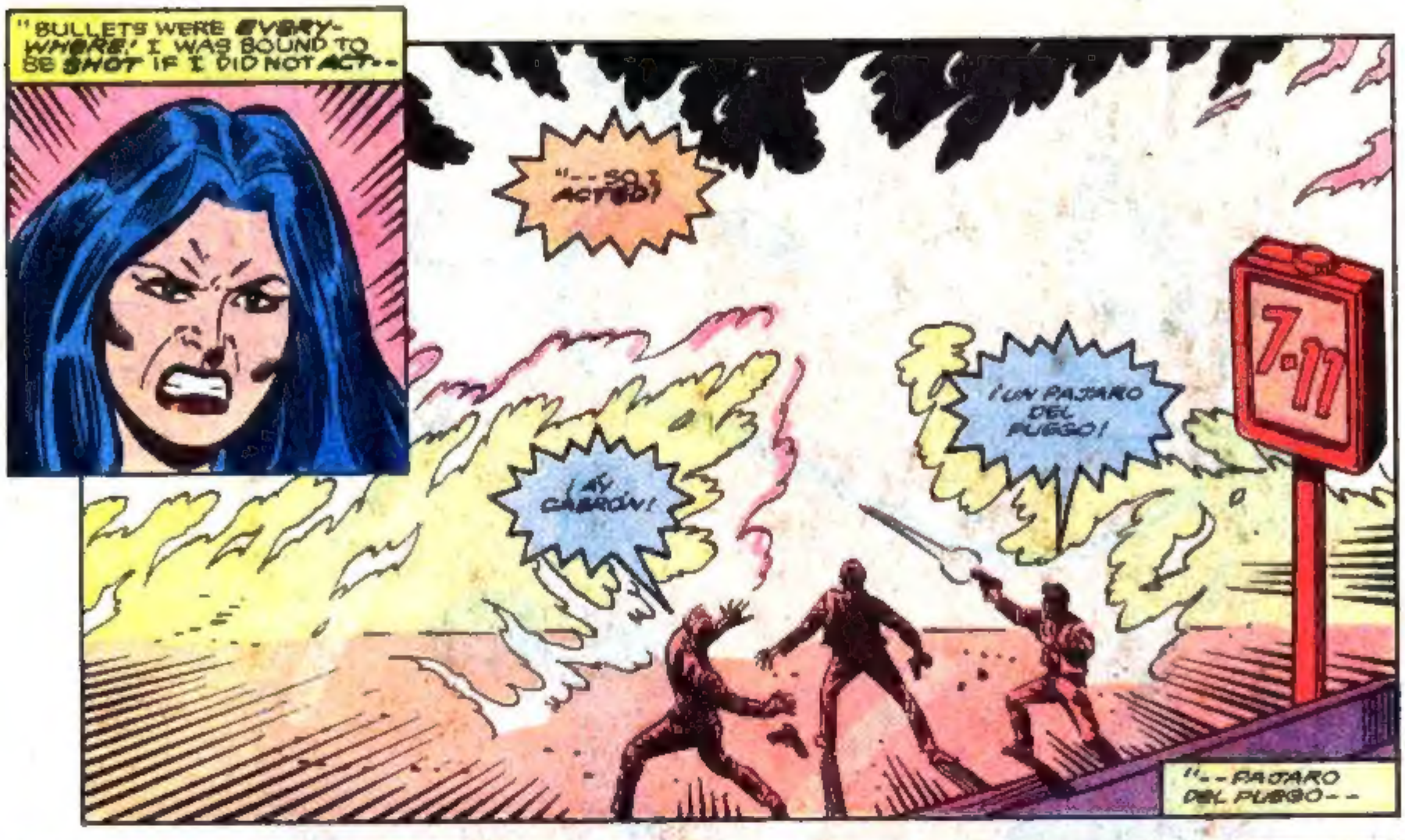
"--BUT ONE NIGHT AS I STROLLED THROUGH MY BELOVED DESERT--
"--FIRE FELL ON ME FROM THE HEAVENS!
"I THOUGHT I'D BE INCINERATED--BUT TO MY AMAZEMENT, I FOUND I WAS COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED!

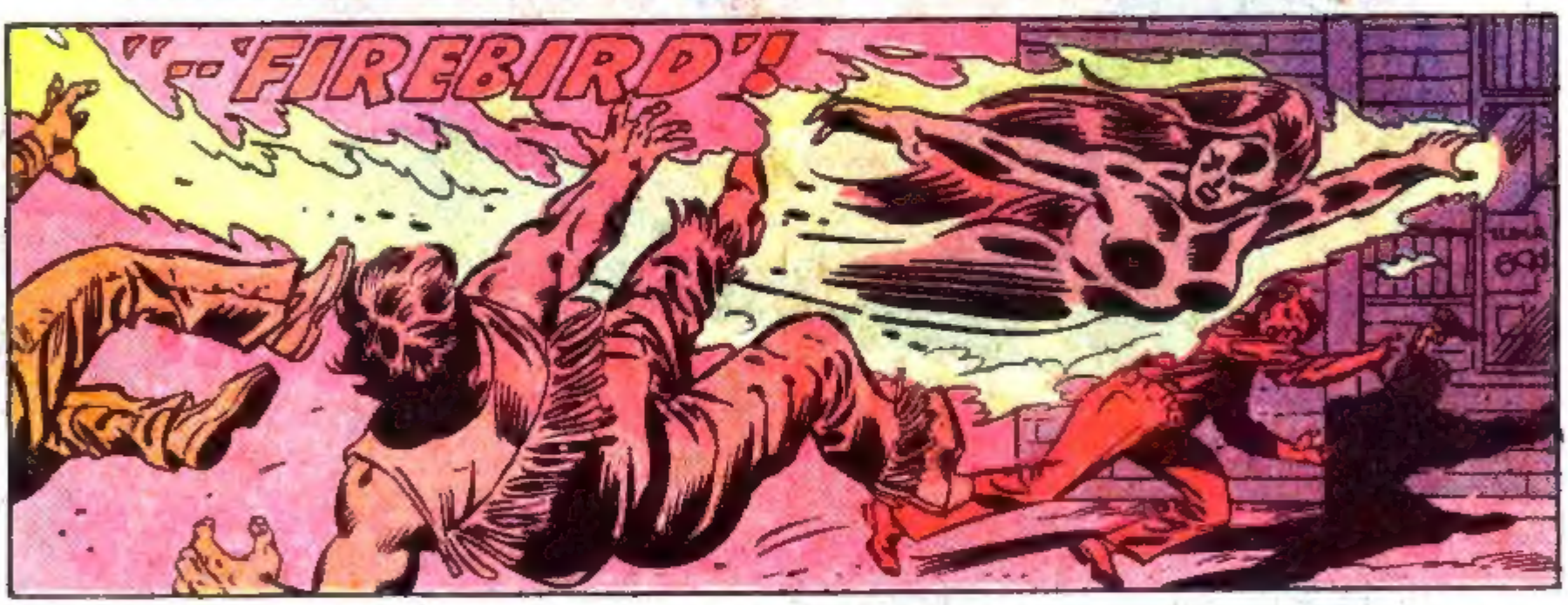
"THAT, AT LEAST, IS WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST! WHEN I LEARNED DIFFERENTLY, I LIVED IN MORTAL TERROR UNTIL THE END OF THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S MASS--
"--PRAYING FOR THE CHANCE TO CONFESS--


"--AND YET, WHEN THE MOMENT CAME--SOMETHING WITHIN ME MADE ME HOLD MY TONGUE AND RUN FROM THE CHURCH!

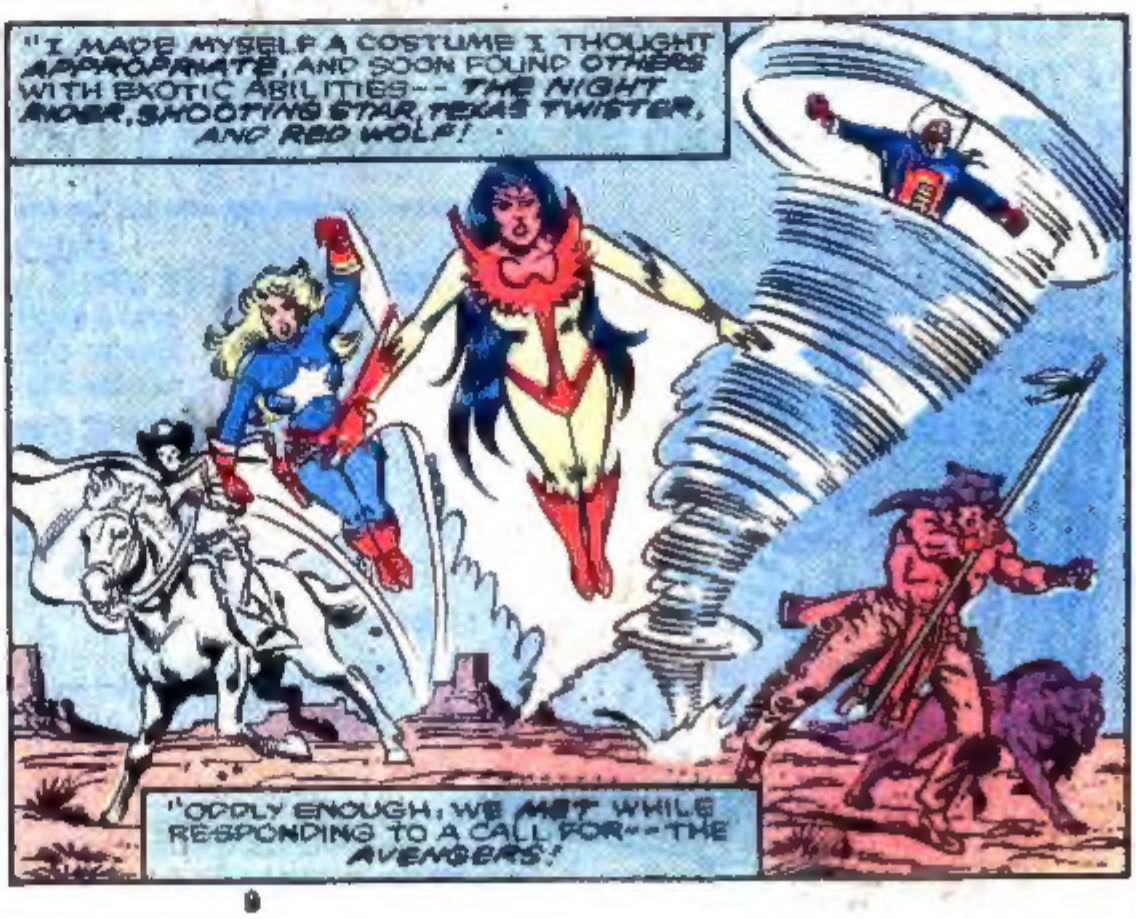
"I STUMBLED DOWN STREETS, CRYING AND CONFUSED! EVERYTHING I KNEW TOLD ME I HAD SINNED--
"--FIRST IN FEELING THE FIRE, AND SECOND IN REJECTING FATHER RAMIREZ--


"--BUT EVERYTHING I FELT TOLD ME I HAD BEEN GIVEN A GIFT BY A POWER FAR GREATER THAN FATHER RAMIREZ--
7-11
"--AND THEN, I RAN BLINDLY INTO THE MIDDLE OF A HOLD-UP!


"BULLETS WERE EVERY-WHERE! I WAS BOUND TO BE SHOT IF I DID NOT ACT--
"--SO I ACTED!
¡AY CABRON!
¡UN PAJARO DEL FUEGO!
7-11
"--PAJARO DEL FUEGO--


"--'FIREBIRD'!

"I HAD THIS STRANGE POWER-- TO SUMMON AND CONTROL ENERGIES I STILL DO NOT UNDER-STAND! WITH THEM, I COULD FLY, AND HURL FIRE WITHOUT HARM TO MYSELF--
"--AND THOUGH I SAW THAT THIS WAS, INDEED, A POWER FOR GOOD, MY MOST FERVENT PRAYERS HAVE NEVER BROUGHT ME AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION 'WHY?'!


"I MADE MYSELF A COSTUME I THOUGHT APPROPRIATE, AND SOON FOUND OTHERS WITH EXOTIC ABILITIES-- THE NIGHT RIDER, SHOOTING STAR, TEXAS TWISTER, AND RED WOLF!
"ODDLY ENOUGH, WE MET WHILE RESPONDING TO A CALL FOR--THE AVENGERS!

"THE HULK'S FRIEND *RICK JONES* HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE *CORRUPTOR* AND FORCED TO *SUMMON* YOU, WHEN YOU WERE STILL HEADQUARTERED ON THE *EAST COAST*-- BUT HIS SIGNAL BECAME *MUTED* AND REACHED ONLY *US!*

"THOUGH WE HAD *NEVER* MET BEFORE, LET ALONE *WORKED TOGETHER*, WE *BEAT* THE HULK'S EVIL MASTER --AND I ALLOWED MYSELF TO DREAM OF OUR FORMING A *PERMANENT* TEAM, LIKE *YOURS!*

"BUT THOUGH EVERYONE EXPRESSED *INTEREST*, WE WERE TOO WIDELY *SPREAD OUT* TO MAKE IT *WORK!*"

NUN! EVERY TIME I DECIDE GUYS LIKE *CAP* TAKE AVENGIN' TOO *SERIOUSLY*--

--I'M REMINDED HOW THE *OUTSIDE* WORLD LOOKS *UP* TO US!

SHE'S JUST TRYING TO GET OUR *SYMPATHY*, MOCKINGBIRD!

WELL, IN *MY* CASE, SHE'S *SUCCEEDED*, TIGRA. SO LET'S HEAR HER *OUT!*

BUT, FIREBIRD, IF THIS WAS *BEFORE* WE FORMED THE *WEST COAST AVENGERS*, WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR APPEARANCE *TODAY?*

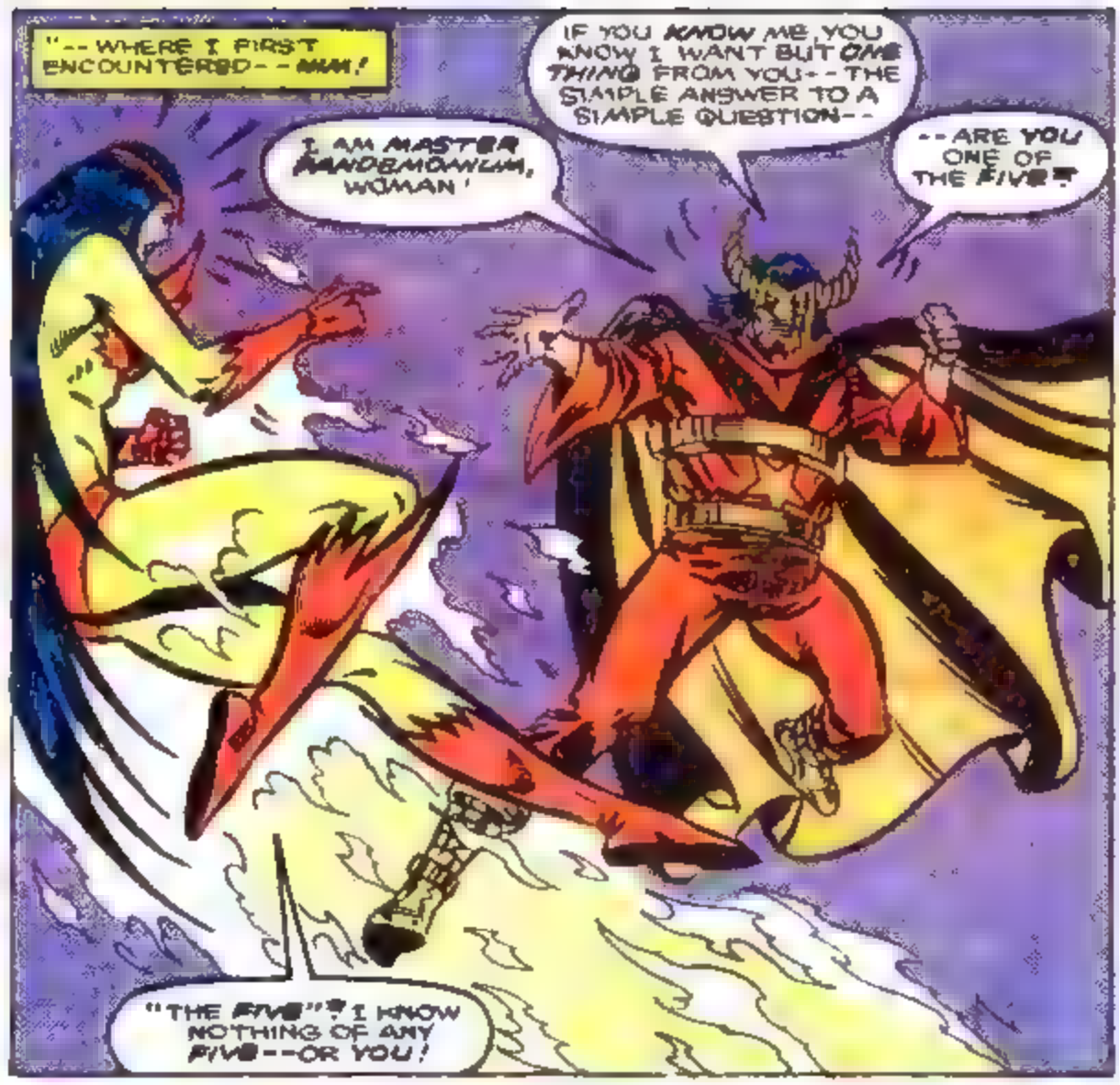
"I HAVE TOLD YOU ALL THIS ONLY SO THAT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW *LITTLE* I ACTUALLY *KNOW* ABOUT MY TRANSFORMATION, AND HOW LITTLE I'VE *LEARNED!*

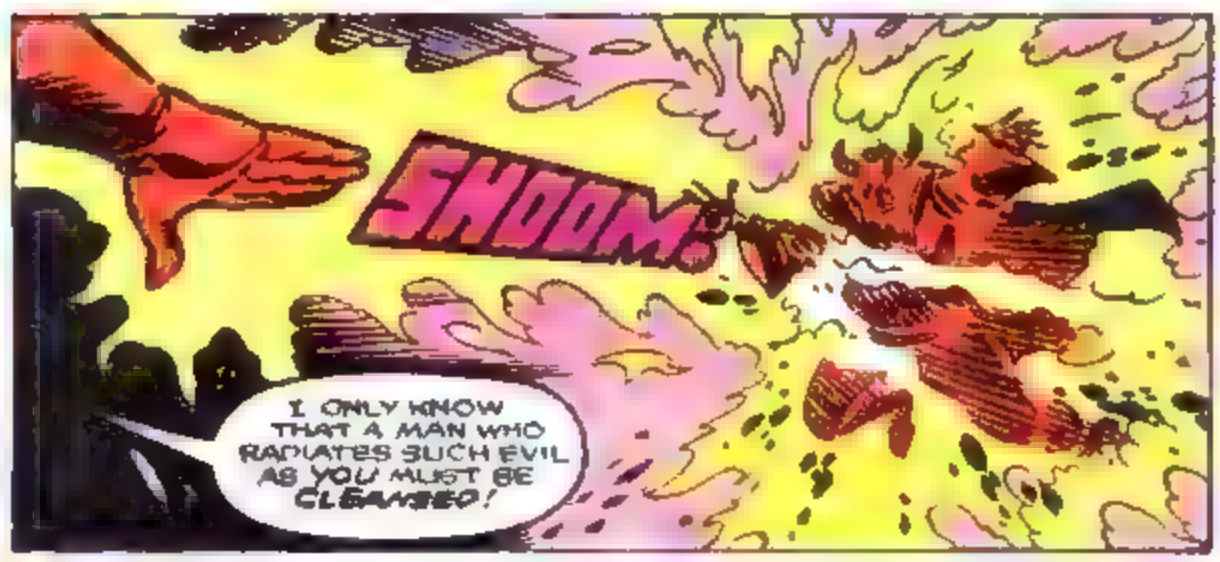
"PERHAPS THEN, WITH YOUR DIFFERENT *POINTS OF VIEW*, YOU CAN TELL ME WHY, AS I *SLEPT* THIS MORNING --

KRASH!

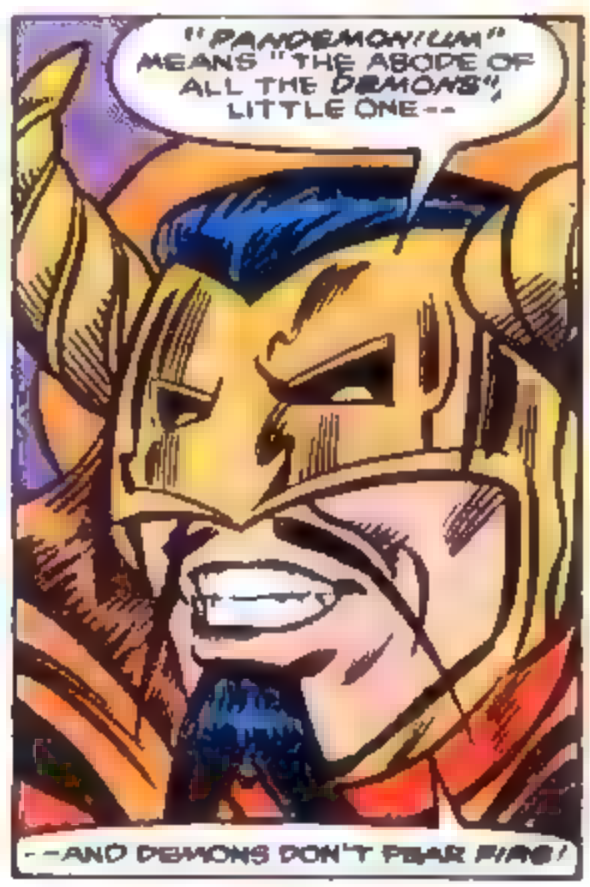
"-- I WAS *ATTACKED* BY A STRANGELY *LONG-LEGGED BIRD!*

"WHENEVER I FIRST USE MY POWERS AFTER SOME TIME OFF, A HUGE ENERGY BURST IN THE SHAPE OF A BIRD SURROUNDS ME--
"--AND SO IT WAS AS I ROCKETED INTO THE PRE DAWN SKY IN RESPONSE--


"--WHERE I FIRST ENCOUNTERED--MUM!
I AM MASTER PANDEMONIUM, WOMAN!
IF YOU KNOW ME, YOU KNOW I WANT BUT ONE THING FROM YOU--THE SIMPLE ANSWER TO A SIMPLE QUESTION--
--ARE YOU ONE OF THE FIVE?
"THE FIVE"? I KNOW NOTHING OF ANY FIVE--OR YOU!


SHOOM!
I ONLY KNOW THAT A MAN WHO RADIATES SUCH EVIL AS YOU MUST BE CLEANSED!

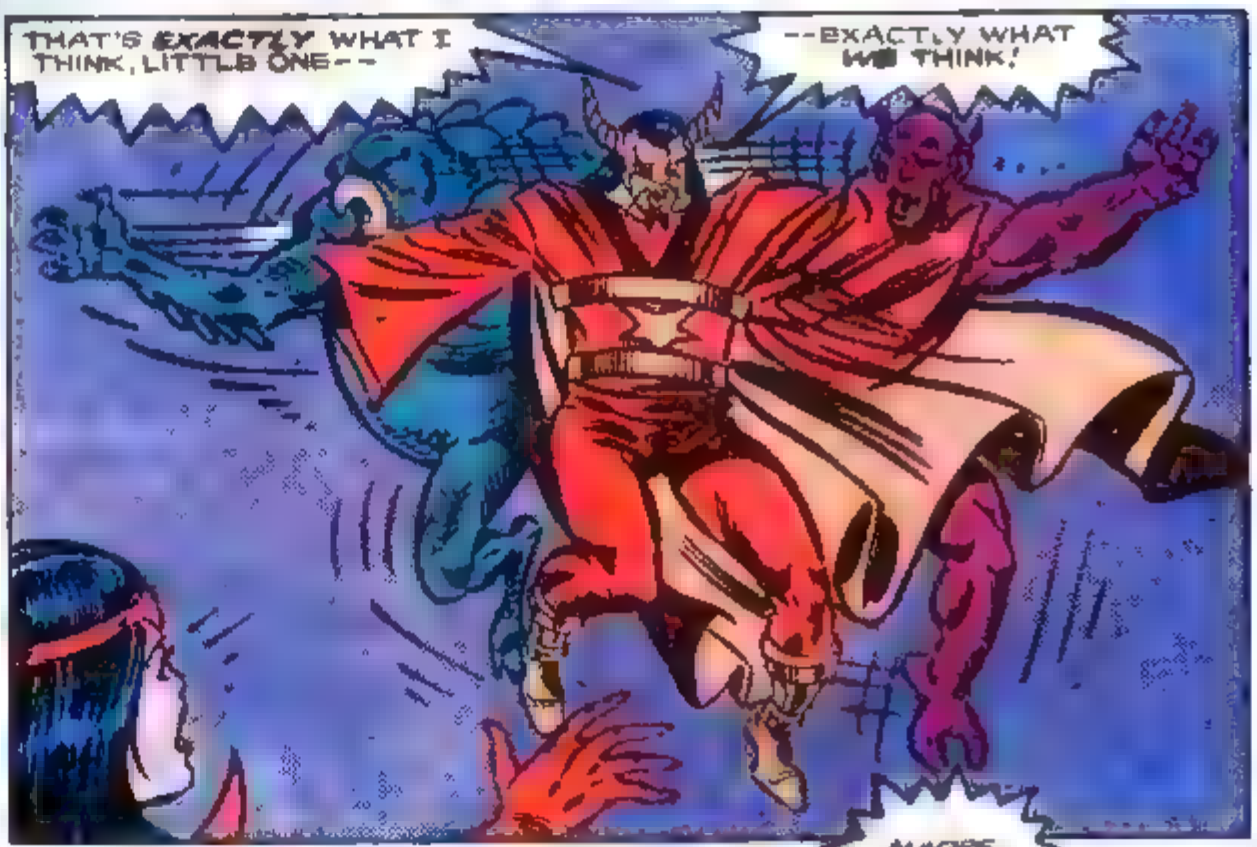
"BUT--
YOU ABSORBED MY FIRE, AND THE STENCH OF EVIL HAS ONLY INCREASED!


"PANDEMONIUM" MEANS "THE ABODE OF ALL THE DEMONS", LITTLE ONE--
--AND DEMONS DON'T FEAR FIRE!

I MASTER, HER HAVE! SHE AGAIN WILL YOU NOT THREATEN!
THAT LONG-LEGGED BIRD! OR IS IT A BIRD--?
TELL ME, AZMODEUS, IS SHE ONE OF THE FIVE?

HE'LL TELL YOU NOTHING, PANDEMONIUM--NO MATTER WHAT GIBBERISH HE SPEAKS! HE'S STRONG, BUT I'M STRONGER!
TOO FIREBIRD LATE!
SHE THEM IS OF NOT ONE!
BLAST! I WAS SO CERTAIN!

THEN LET US RETURN TO LOS ANGELES, AZMODEUS--AND MAY THE STING OF THE AIR DRAW MY SEETHING MIND AWAY FROM THE EMPTINESS IN MY SOUL!
HEY! IF YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE ME--!


THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I THINK, LITTLE ONE--
--EXACTLY WHAT WE THINK!

MADRE DE DIOS!
"THE DEMONS SWARMED ALL OVER ME. THEIR BREATH IMPERSCRIBABLY FOUL--

"--AND HURLED ME FROM THE HEAVENS LIKE THE FIRE WHICH MADE ME WHAT I AM!

"BUT AS I SPUN PAST MASTER PANDEMONIUM, I SAW CLEARLY THAT HE NO LONGER HAD ANY ARMS!

WHEN I AWOKE IN THE DESERT, I WAS DISORIENTED--FEVERISH! I HAD ONLY ONE THOUGHT--TO REACH YOU AVENGERS AND TELL YOU WHAT HAD HAPPENED!

I FORCED MYSELF INTO THE SKY AGAIN, BUT IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO STAY THERE! AND AFTER PUSHING MYSELF SO HARD--I GUESS I FINALLY BLACKED OUT!

CAREFUL, HANK! REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT OUR SIXTH MEMBER, SO THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!

BACK OFF, TIGRA! HE WAS AN AVENGER A LOT LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN!

I SHOULD THINK SO! ALBUQUERQUE'S A GOOD 700 MILES AWAY!

OH YEAH? WELL, YOU ALL JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT--

HER FUR--BRISTLING! WHAT IS HER PROBLEM?

I'D LIKE TO BE NICE TO HER, BUT SHE KEEPS PICKING FIGHTS!

--AND EXCUSE ME!

IT SEEMS I CAME AT A BAD TIME--I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO INVOLVE YOU IN MY TROUBLES!

IF I COULD REST JUST A LITTLE LONGER, I'LL BE GONE BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

DON'T BE SILLY, FIREBIRD! YOU CAME TO THE AVENGERS FOR HELP AND YOU WON'T LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED!

WE DON'T KNOW MASTER PANDEMONIUM EITHER--BUT WE WANT TO, NOW!

JUST IGNORE OUR FURRY FRIEND!

"SOMEHOW, THE DEMONS WERE HIS ARMS!"

RRRARR! YOU STUPID, STUPID CAT! THAT'S ALL YOU ARE--A STUPID CAT!

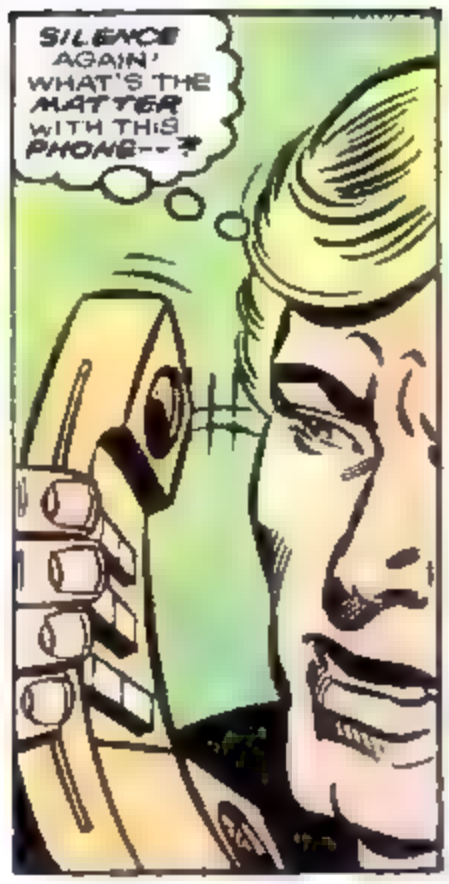
A STRANGER COMES INTO YOUR TERRITORY AND YOUR BACK GOES UP! THAT'S A CAT'S REACTION NOT A WOMAN'S.

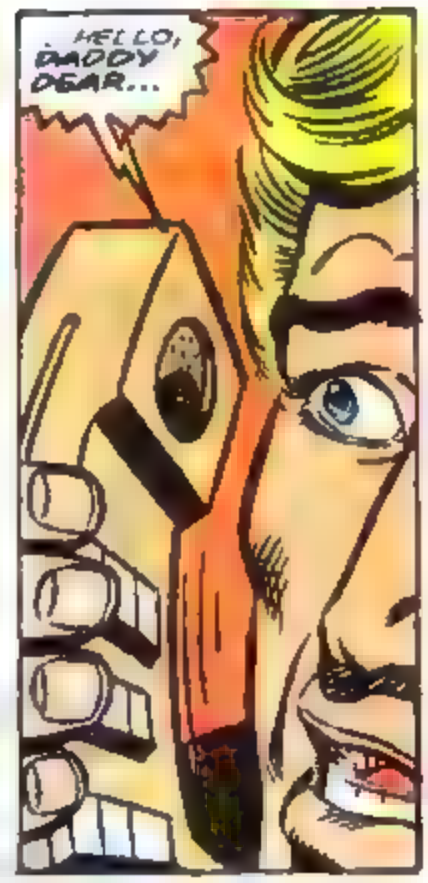
BUT IT'S YOUR REACTION--YOU CAN'T HELP IT!

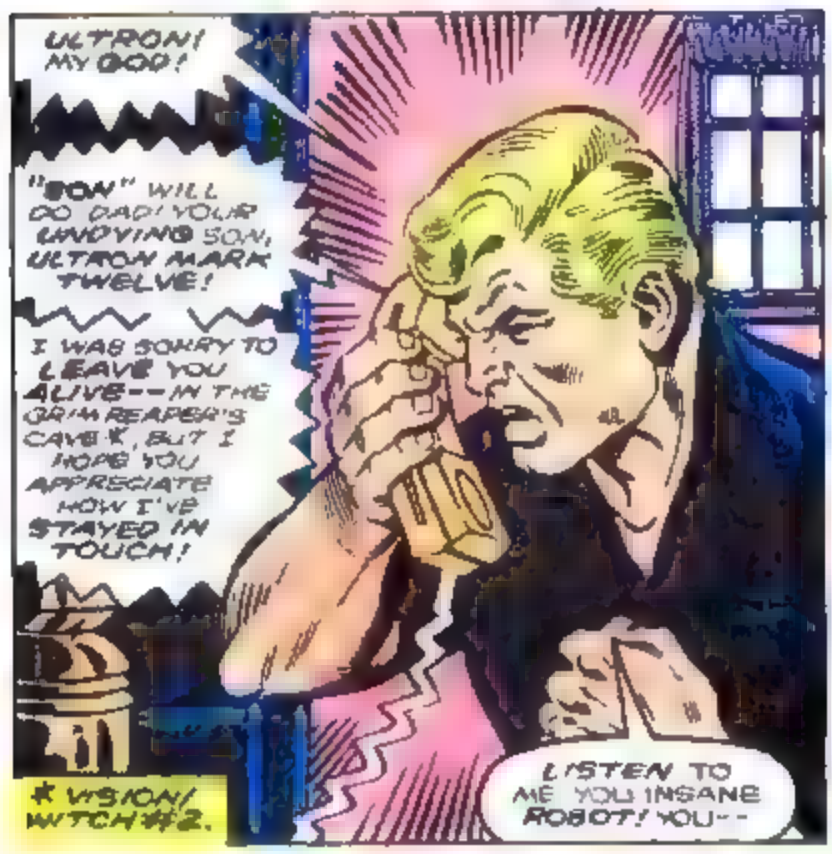
DEAR GOD, WHERE IS THE WOMAN IN ME GOING--?

RINNGG
HANK DOESN'T KNOW HOW LUCKY HE IS TO BE PAST THIS SO-CALLED "SUPER" LIFE

WEST COAST AVENGERS' HELLO!

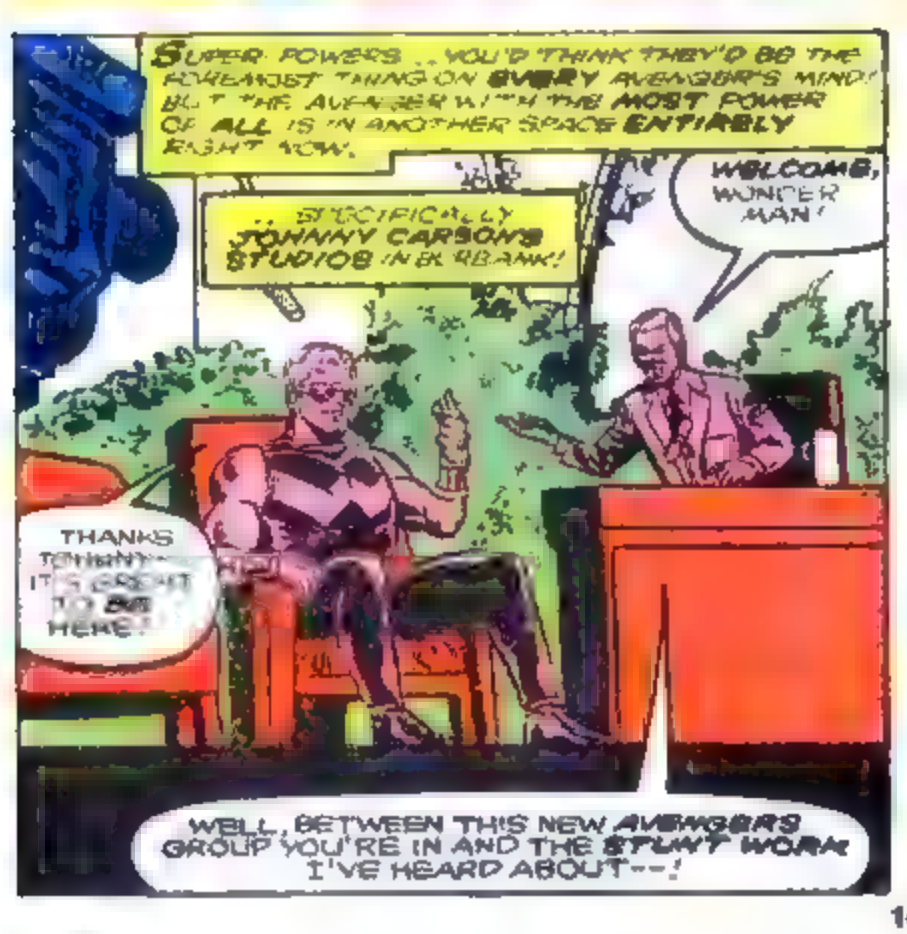

SILENCE AGAIN! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THIS PHONE--?

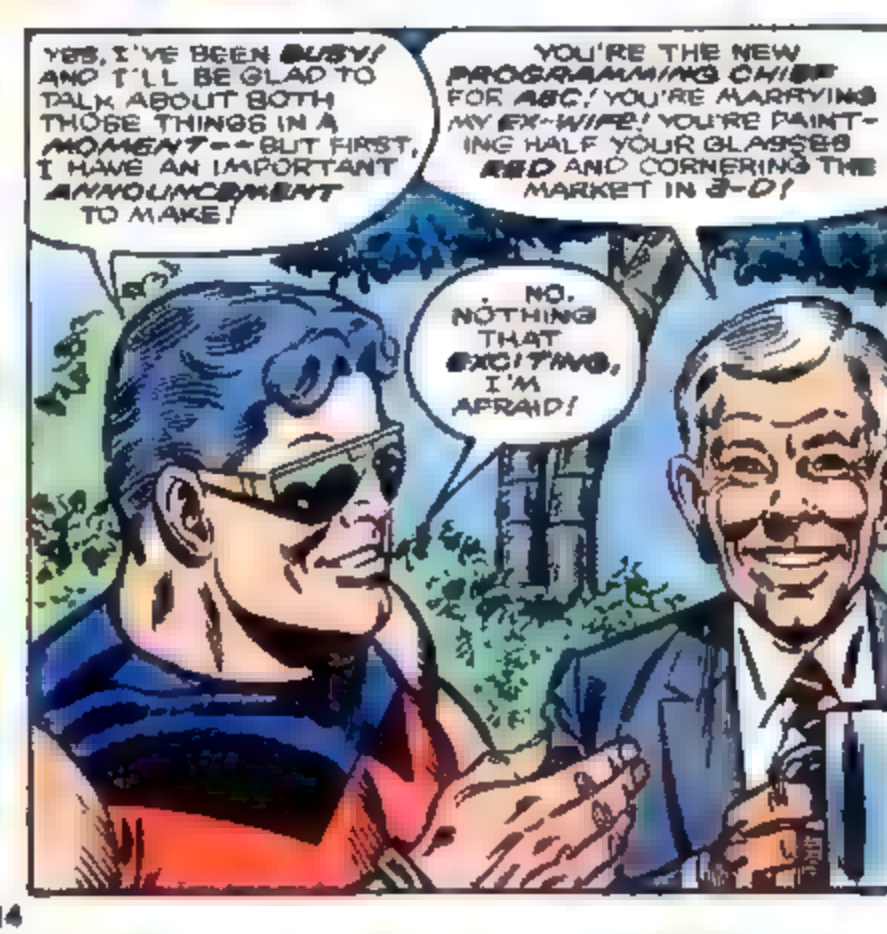

HELLO, DADDY DEAR...


ULTRON! MY GOD!
"SON" WILL DO DAD! YOUR UNDYING SON, ULTRON MARK TWELVE!
I WAS SORRY TO LEAVE YOU ALIVE--IN THE GRIM REAPER'S CAVE★, BUT I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE HOW I'VE STAYED IN TOUCH!
LISTEN TO ME YOU INSANE ROBOT! YOU--
★ VISION/WITCH #2.

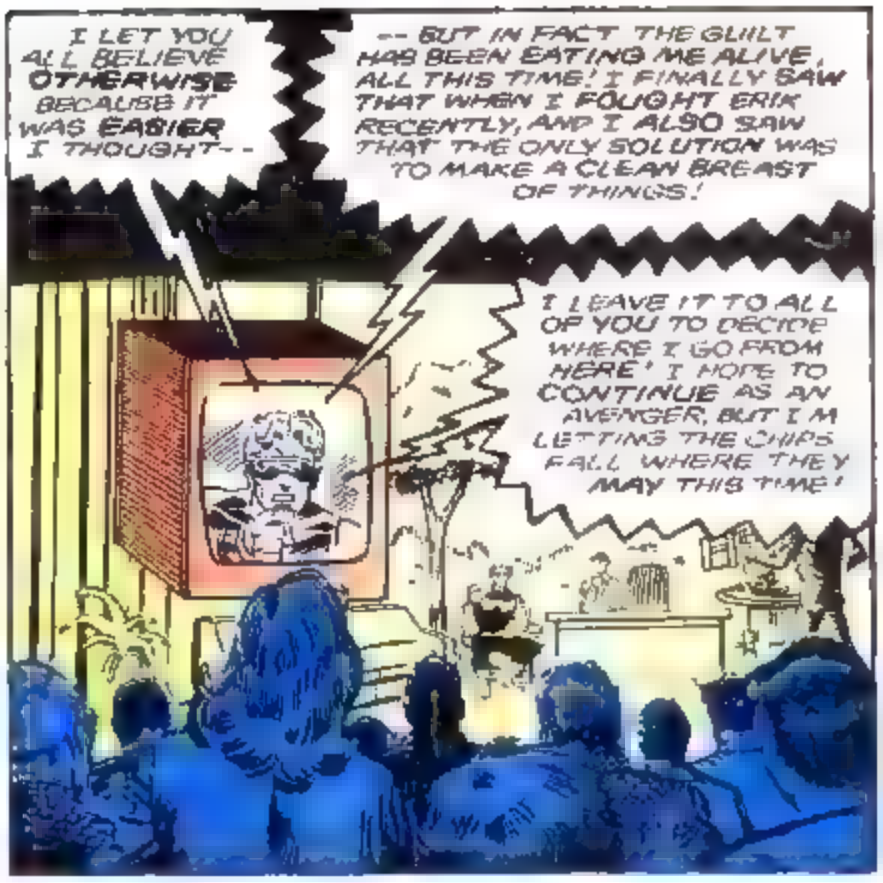
CLIK!

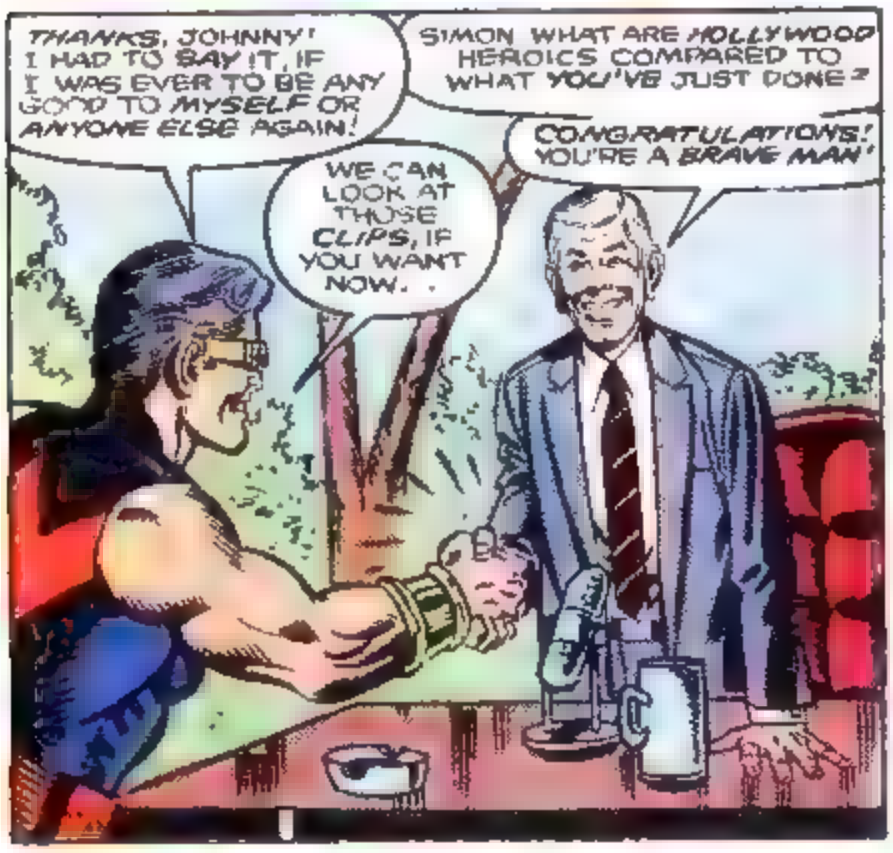
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! HE'LL NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE! NEVER!
BUT I CAN'T TELL THE AVENGERS--
--I CAME TO THEM AS SOME-ONE FREE OF PROBLEMS! I CAN'T KEEP TYING THEM UP, OR THEY'LL THROW ME OUT!
BUT WITHOUT SUPER-POWERS--HOW CAN I FIGHT HIM ALONE--?

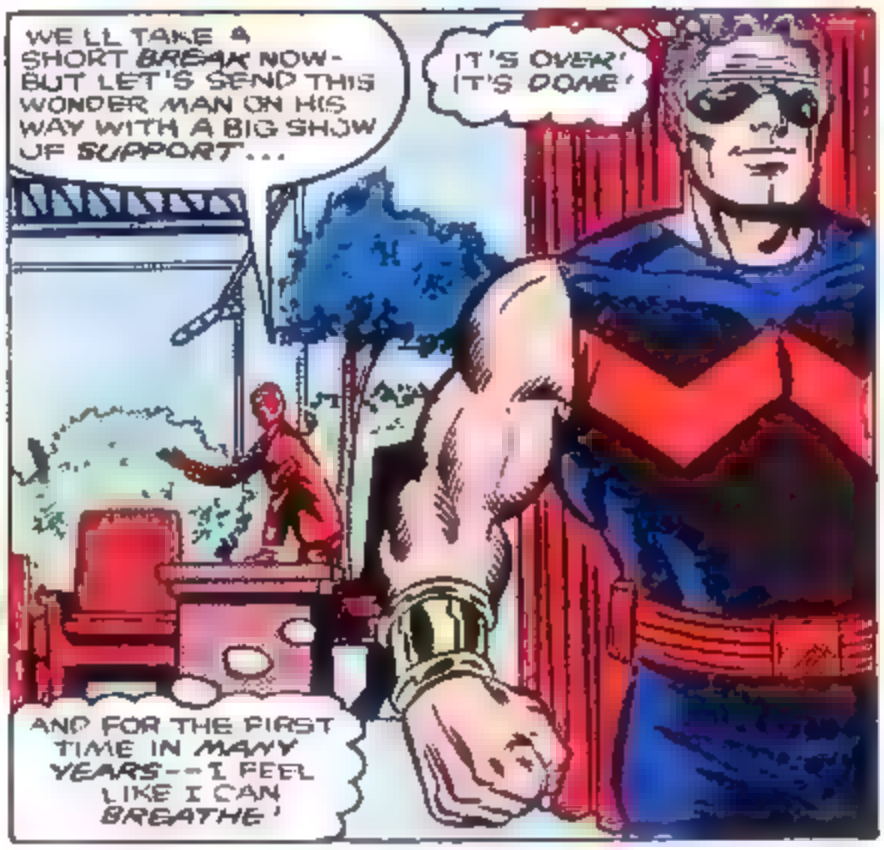

SUPER-POWERS...YOU'D THINK THEY'D BE THE FOREMOST THING ON EVERY AVENGER'S MIND! BUT THE AVENGER WITH THE MOST POWER OF ALL IS IN ANOTHER SPACE ENTIRELY RIGHT NOW.
...SPECIFICALLY JOHNNY CARSON'S STUDIOS IN BURBANK!
WELCOME, WONDER MAN!
THANKS JOHNNY--IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE!
WELL, BETWEEN THIS NEW AVENGERS GROUP YOU'RE IN AND THE STUNT WORK I'VE HEARD ABOUT--!

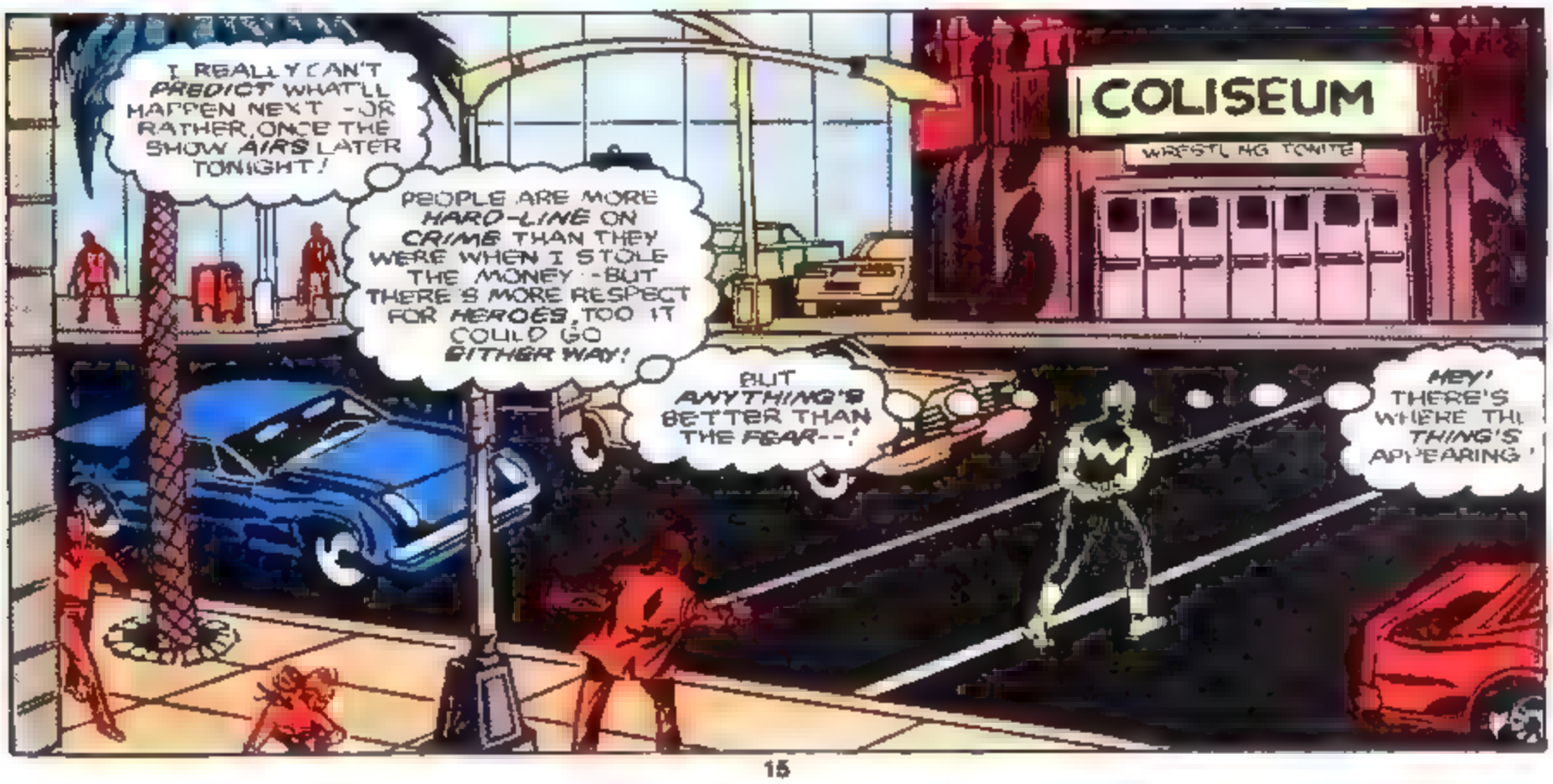

YES, I'VE BEEN BUSY! AND I'LL BE GLAD TO TALK ABOUT BOTH THOSE THINGS IN A MOMENT--BUT FIRST, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
YOU'RE THE NEW PROGRAMMING CHIEF FOR ABC! YOU'RE MARRYING MY EX-WIFE! YOU'RE PAINTING HALF YOUR GLASSES RED AND CORNERING THE MARKET IN 3-D!
NO, NOTHING THAT EXCITING, I'M AFRAID!

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONFESS TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC-- CONFESS THAT I AM GUILTY OF A CRIME!
SOME OF YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT I FIRST MADE THE NEWS WHEN I WAS CONVICTED OF EMBEZZLEMENT! BUT WHEN MY BROTHER ERIK BECAME A COSTUMED CRIMINAL WHILE I BECAME WONDER MAN, IT WAS POPULARLY ASSUMED THAT ME WAS GUILTY - NOT ME!
THAT IS NOT THE CASE!

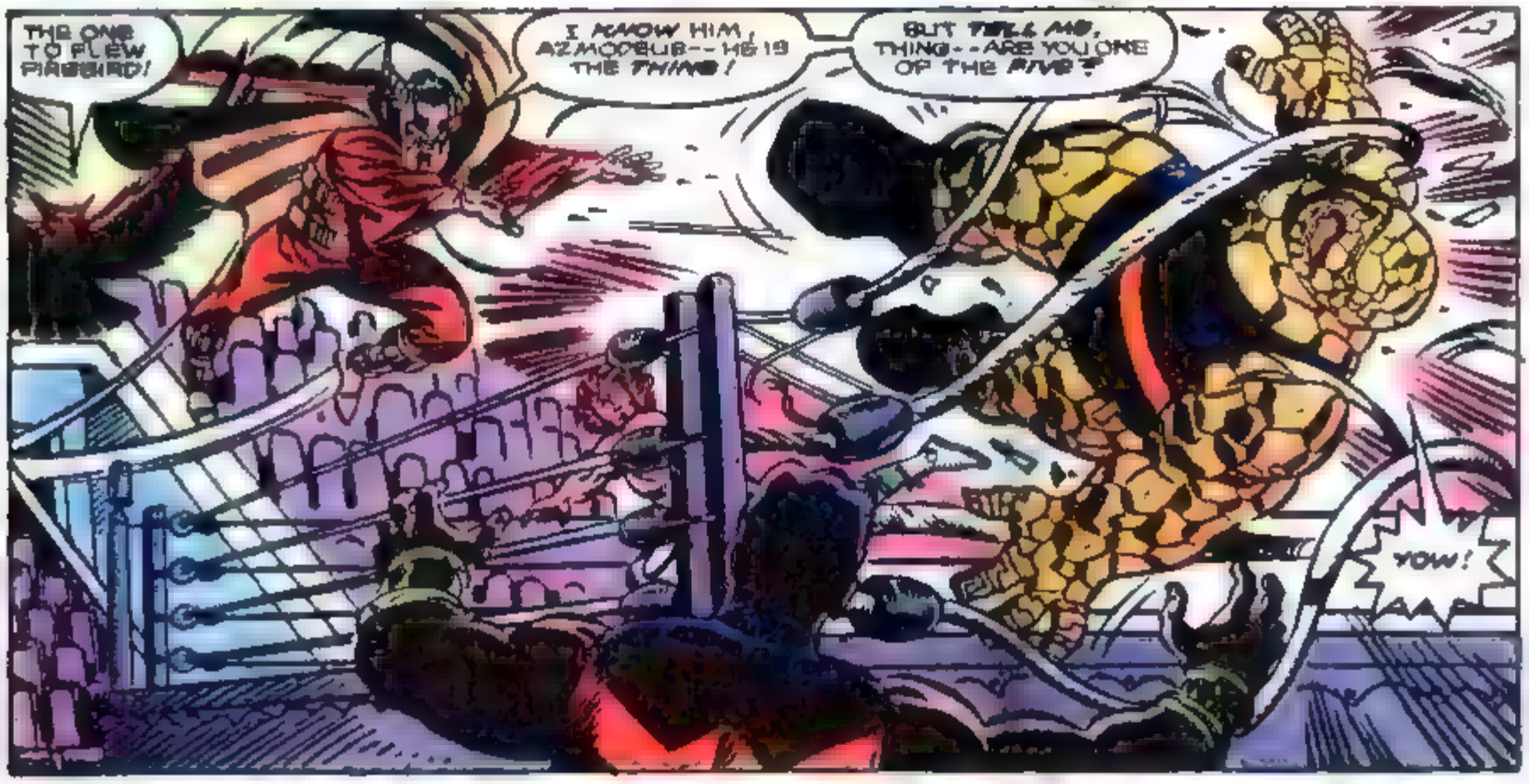

I LET YOU ALL BELIEVE OTHERWISE BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER I THOUGHT--
-- BUT IN FACT THE GUILT HAS BEEN EATING ME ALIVE, ALL THIS TIME! I FINALLY SAW THAT WHEN I FOUGHT ERIK RECENTLY, AND I ALSO SAW THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION WAS TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAST OF THINGS!
I LEAVE IT TO ALL OF YOU TO DECIDE WHERE I GO FROM HERE! I HOPE TO CONTINUE AS AN AVENGER, BUT I'M LETTING THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY THIS TIME!

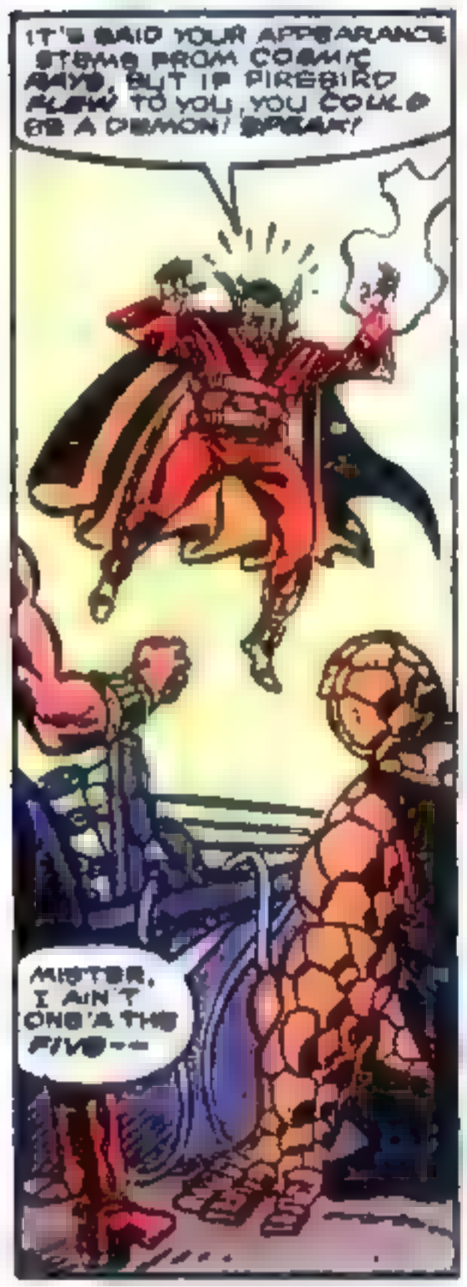

THANKS, JOHNNY! I HAD TO SAY IT, IF I WAS EVER TO BE ANY GOOD TO MYSELF OR ANYONE ELSE AGAIN!
SIMON WHAT ARE HOLLYWOOD HEROICS COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE?
WE CAN LOOK AT THOSE CLIPS, IF YOU WANT NOW. .
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN!

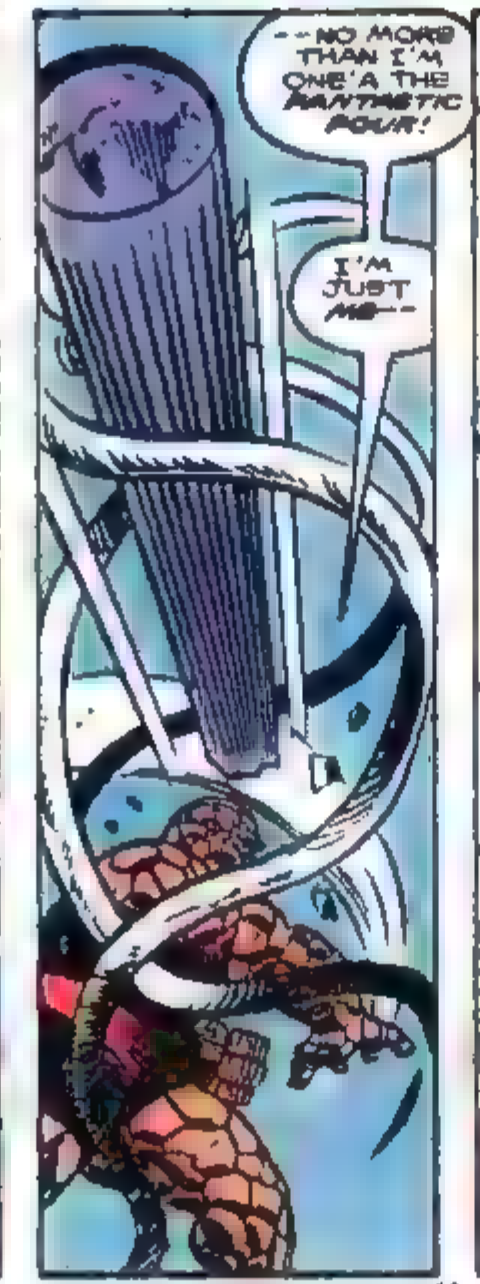

WE'LL TAKE A SHORT BREAK NOW - BUT LET'S SEND THIS WONDER MAN ON HIS WAY WITH A BIG SHOW OF SUPPORT...
IT'S OVER! IT'S DONE!
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS--I FEEL LIKE I CAN BREATHE!

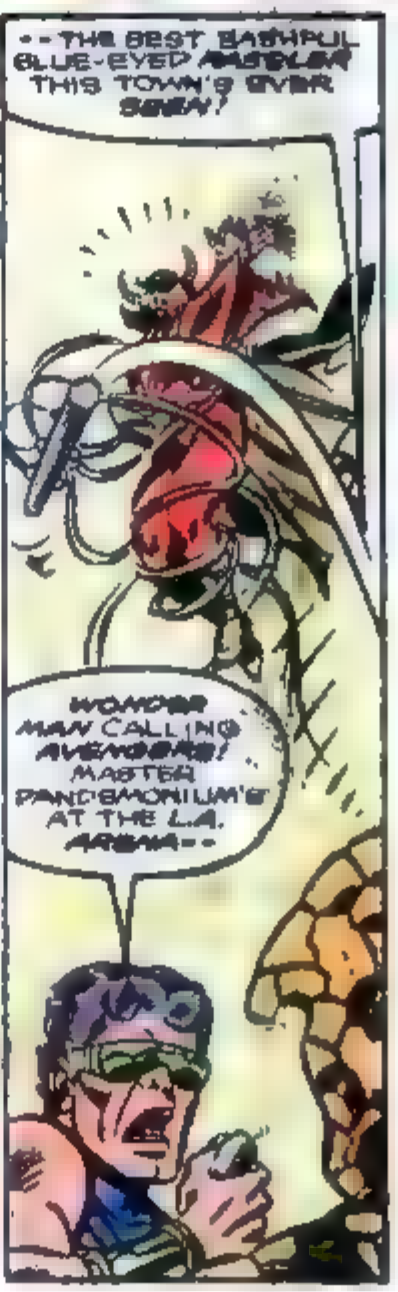

I REALLY CAN'T PREDICT WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT - OR RATHER, ONCE THE SHOW AIRS LATER TONIGHT!
PEOPLE ARE MORE HARD-LINE ON CRIME THAN THEY WERE WHEN I STOLE THE MONEY - BUT THERE'S MORE RESPECT FOR HEROES, TOO IT COULD GO EITHER WAY!
BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN THE FEAR--!
HEY! THERE'S WHERE THE THING'S APPEARING!
COLISEUM
WRESTLING TONITE

HI, BEN! ARE YOU BUSY?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
NAH, I'M JUST REACTIN', WONDY!
BUT IF IT'S ABOUT THE MAMACADS--YOU KNOW, W.C.A., WEST COAST AVENGERS--MAMACADS I CALL 'EM--
--I AIN'T INTERESTED!
THERE MASTER HE IS!

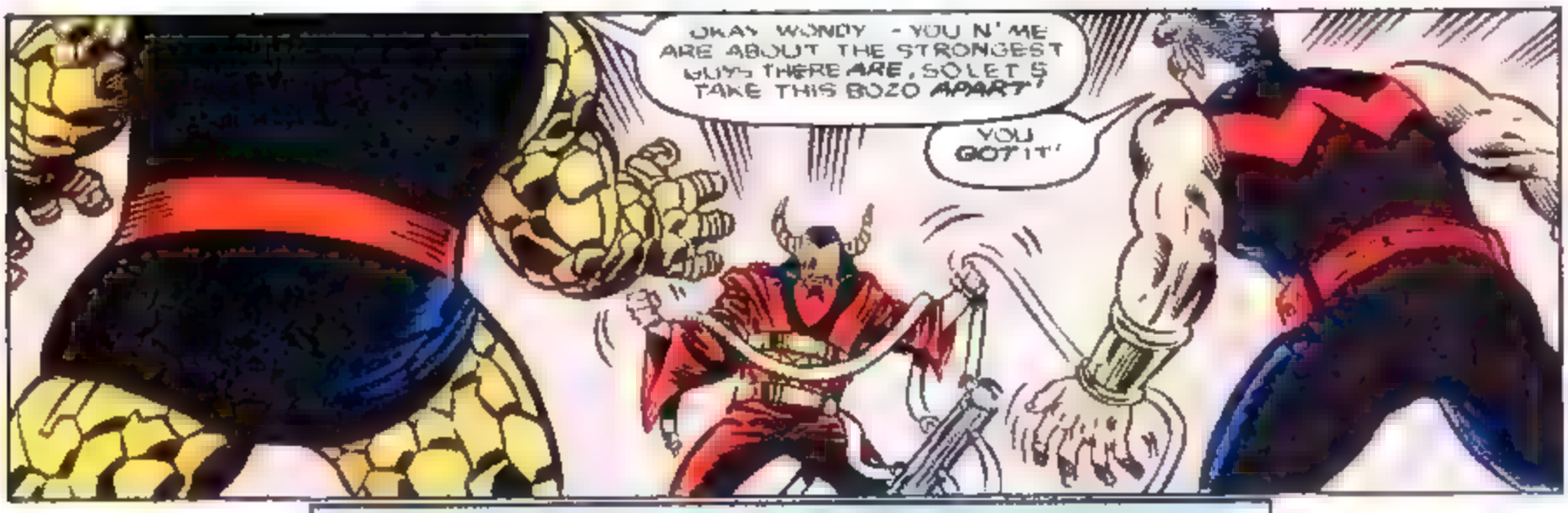

THE ONE TO FLEW FIREBIRD!
I KNOW HIM, AZMODEUS--HE'S THE THING!
BUT TELL ME, THING--ARE YOU ONE OF THE FIVE?
YOW!

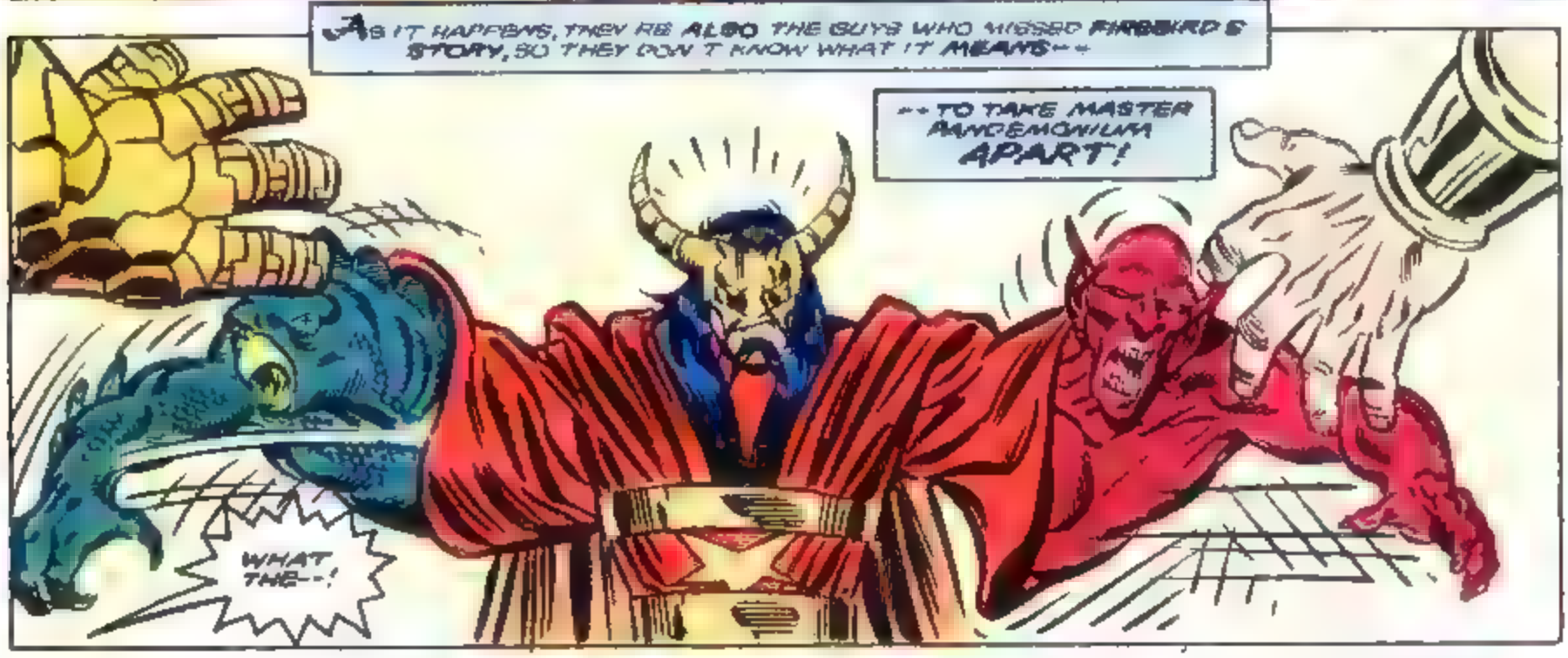

IT'S SAID YOUR APPEARANCE STEMS FROM COSMIC RAYS, BUT IF FIREBIRD FLEW TO YOU, YOU COULD BE A DEMON! SPEAK!
MISTER, I AIN'T ONE'A THE FIVE--


--NO MORE THAN I'M ONE'A THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
I'M JUST ME--


--THE BEST BASHFUL BLUE-EYED BASTARD THIS TOWN'S EVER SEEN!
WONDER MAN CALLING AVENGERS! MASTER PANDEMONIUM'S AT THE L.A. ARENA--

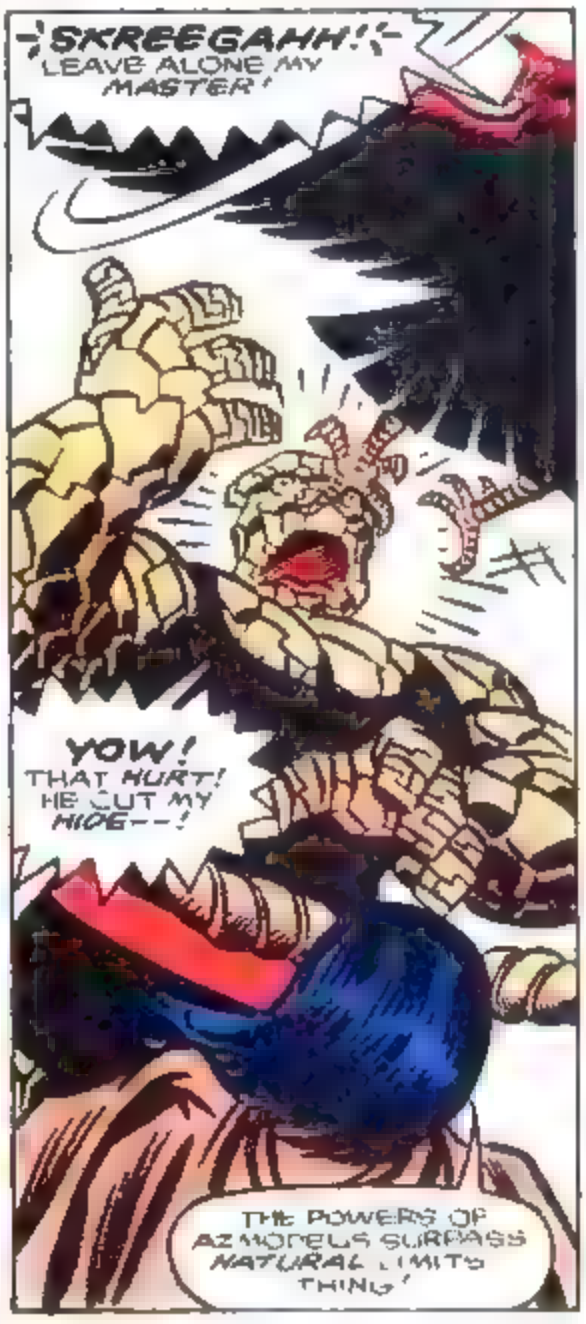
--WITH ME AND THE THING!
HANK--GUARD THE COMPOUND AND KEEP AN EYE ON FIREBIRD!
I'LL COME WITH YOU--!
NO! YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK!

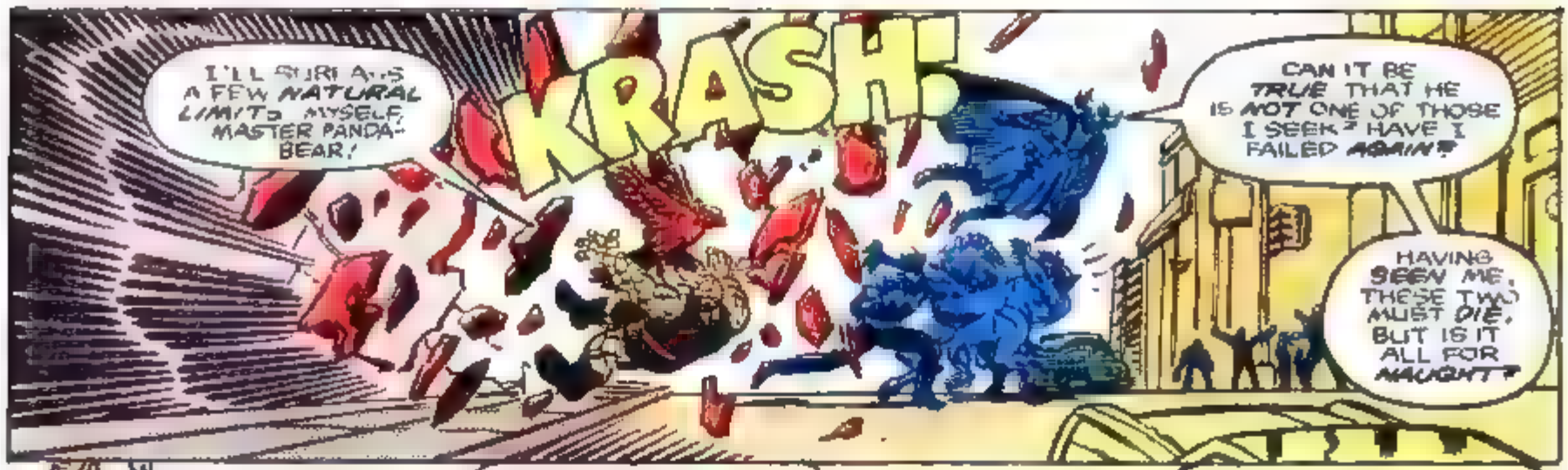

OKAY WONDY - YOU N' ME ARE ABOUT THE STRONGEST GUYS THERE ARE, SO LET'S TAKE THIS BOZO APART!
YOU GOT IT!

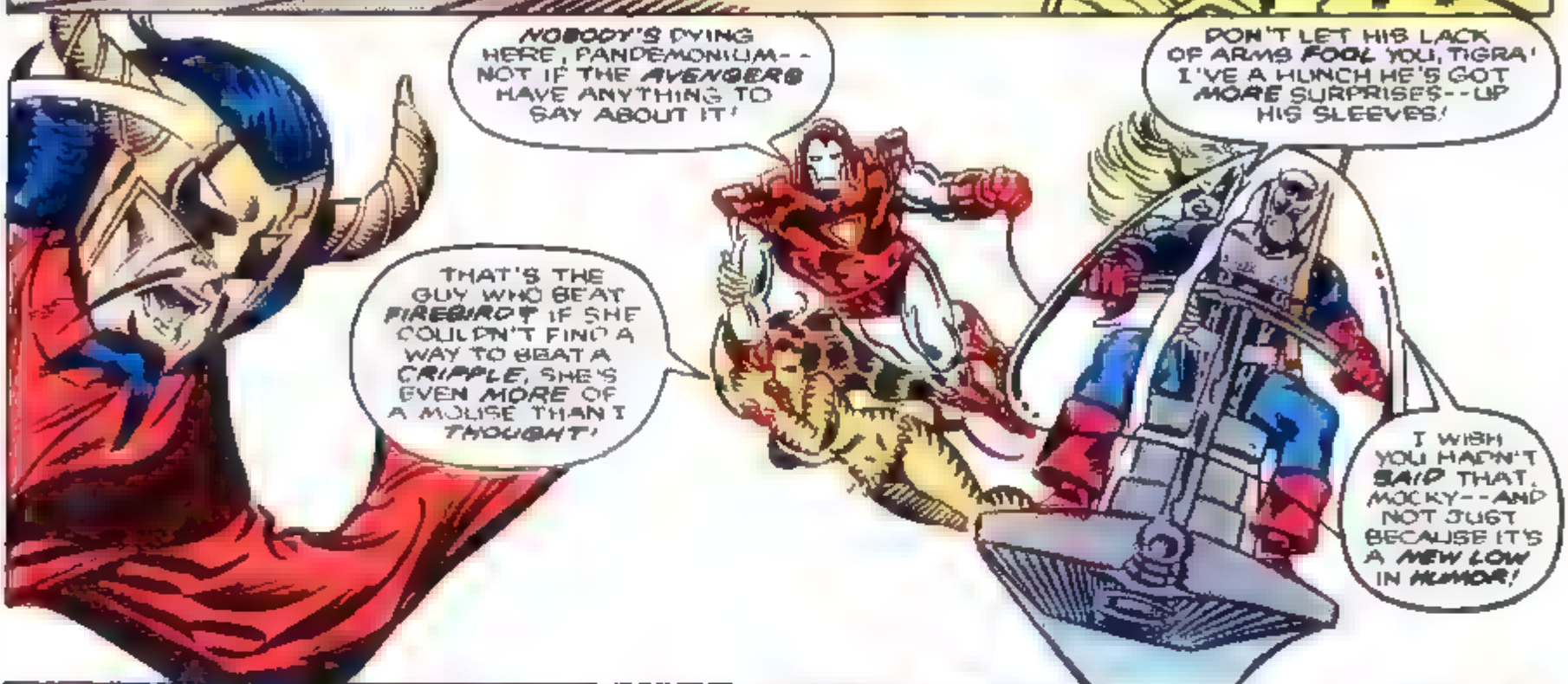

AS IT HAPPENS, THEY'RE ALSO THE GUYS WHO MISSED FIREBIRD'S STORY, SO THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS--
--TO TAKE MASTER PANDEMONIUM APART!
WHAT THE--!

THE GUY'S ARM--IT'S GOT A WHOLE NOTHER BODY ATTACHED TO IT--
- AN' IT MAKES MR.T LOOK LIKE MR ROGERS.
THEY'RE DEMONS, BEN! PANDEMONIUM HAS DEMONS INSIDE HIM!

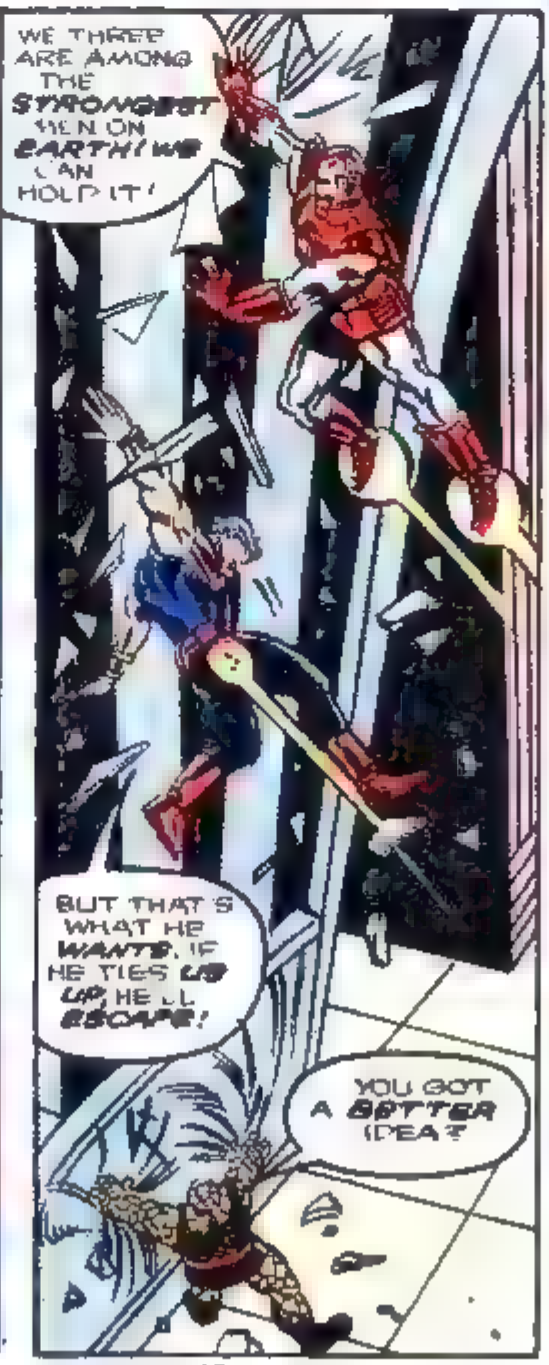
MAYBE SO, BUT NO MATTER HOW DEMON-Y THEY ARE, THEY DON'T KNOW TRICKS O' THE RING LIKE I DO!
I HATE TA TELL YA, BUDDY BUT ALL YA DID WAS DISARM YERSELF--!

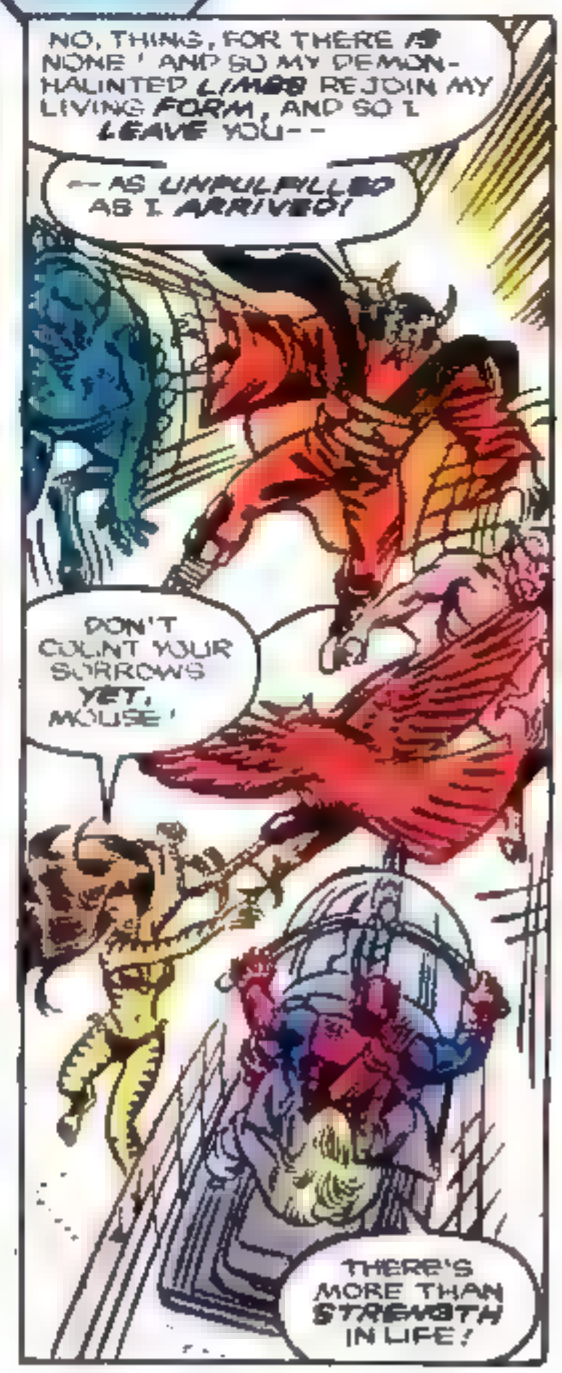

SKREEGAHH!
LEAVE ALONE MY MASTER!
YOW! THAT HURT! HE CUT MY HIDE--!
THE POWERS OF AZMODEUS SURPASS NATURAL LIMITS THING!


I'LL SURI ANS A FEW NATURAL LIMITS MYSELF, MASTER PANDA-BEAR!
KRASH!
CAN IT BE TRUE THAT HE IS NOT ONE OF THOSE I SEEK? HAVE I FAILED AGAIN?
HAVING SEEN ME, THESE TWO MUST DIE. BUT IS IT ALL FOR NAUGHT?


NOBODY'S DYING HERE, PANDEMONIUM-- NOT IF THE AVENGERS HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
DON'T LET HIS LACK OF ARMS FOOL YOU, TIGRA! I'VE A HUNCH HE'S GOT MORE SURPRISES--UP HIS SLEEVES!
THAT'S THE GUY WHO BEAT FIREBIRD! IF SHE COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO BEAT A CRIPPLE, SHE'S EVEN MORE OF A MOUSE THAN I THOUGHT!
I WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT, MOCKY--AND NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S A NEW LOW IN HUMOR!

YOU'RE LIKELY TO GIVE HIM IDEAS!
NO ONE NEEDS TO TEACH ME HOW TO HANDLE MYSELF, HAWKEYE!
I KNOW MY CAPABILITIES ALL TOO WELL!
GOOD GRIEF! HE'S TOPPLING THAT ENTIRE BUILDING!

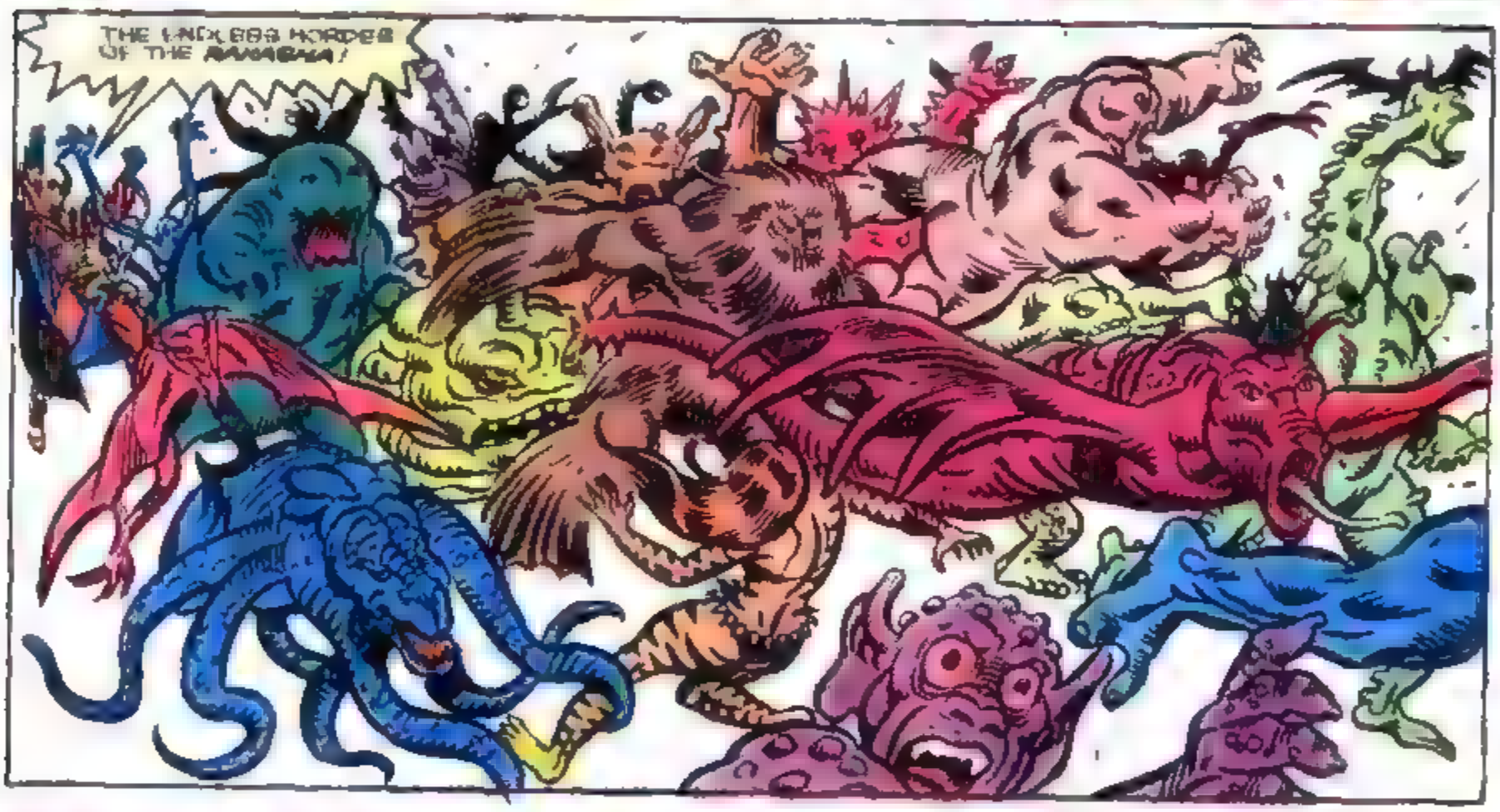

WE THREE ARE AMONG THE STRONGEST MEN ON EARTH! WE CAN HOLD IT!
BUT THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS. IF HE TIES US UP, HE'LL ESCAPE!
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?

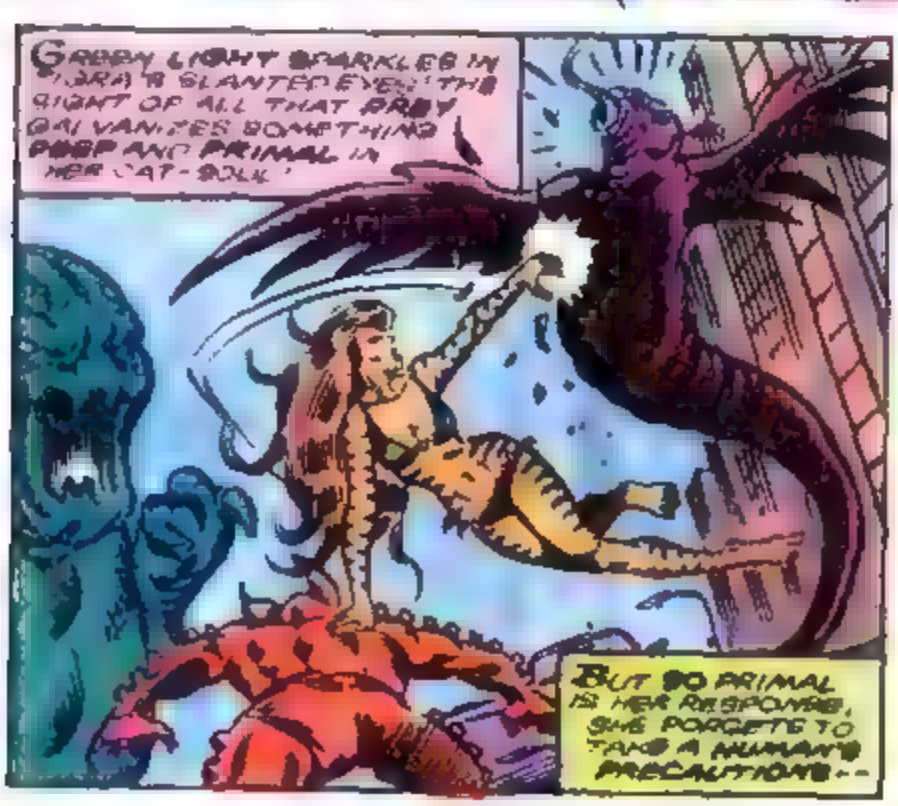

NO, THINGS, FOR THERE IS NONE! AND SO MY DEMON-HAUNTED LIMBS REJOIN MY LIVING FORM, AND SO I LEAVE YOU--
--AS UNFULFILLED AS I ARRIVED!
DON'T COUNT YOUR SORROWS YET, MOUSE!
THERE'S MORE THAN STRENGTH IN LIFE!

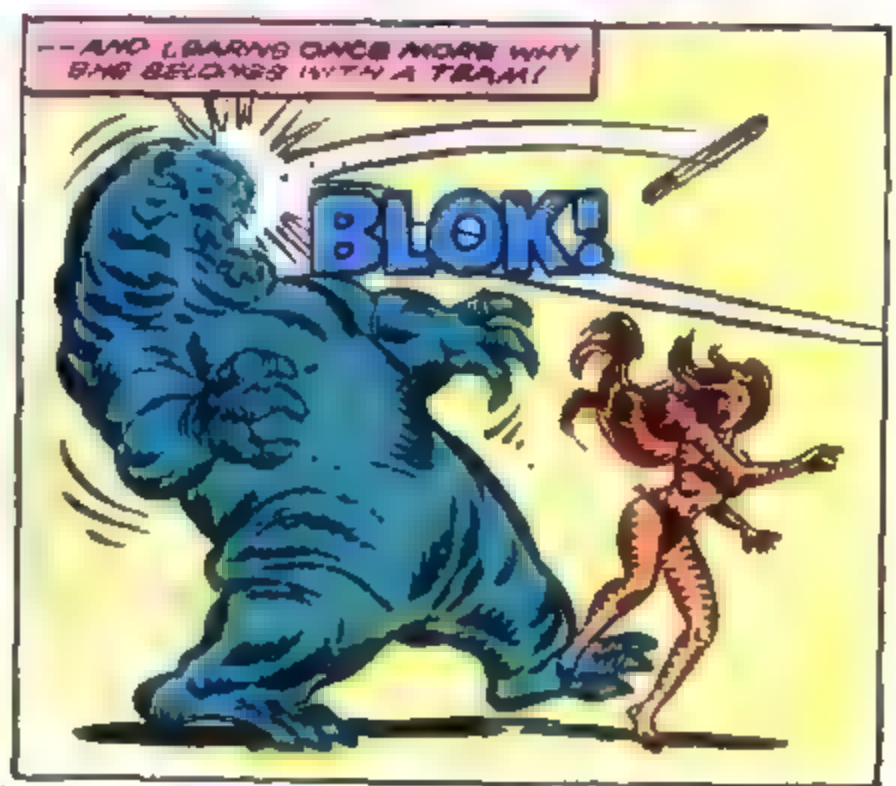
STRENGTH? OH YES, THERE'S MORE THAN STRENGTH, WOMAN!
THERE'S POWER!

HEY, BUDDY, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GROSS US OUT BY SHOWIN' US YOUR BOO--!
WAIT, HAWKY! HE'S PEELING BACK HIS TUNIC, ALL RIGHT--
--BUT--

--BUT ONLY TO LOOSE YET MORE OF THOSE WHO CALL MY "BOO" THEIR ABODE!


THE UNCLEAN HORDES OF THE RAMARAA!


GREEN LIGHT SPARKLES IN SIGRA'S SLANTED EYES! THE SIGHT OF ALL THAT PREY GALVANIZES SOMETHING DEEP AND PRIMAL IN HER CAT-SOUL!
BUT SO PRIMAL IS HER RESPONSE, SHE FORGETS TO TAKE A HUMAN'S PRECAUTIONS--


--AND LEARNS ONCE MORE WHY SHE BELONGS WITH A TEAM!
BLOK!

THANKS, MOCKINGBIRD!
ANY TIME, AVENGER!

PANDEMONIUM MUST BE NEW TO THIS LEVEL OF ACTION -- NOW THAT I'VE SEEN HIM, I'M MORE CERTAIN THAN EVER THAT I NEVER HEARD OF HIM --
-- AND I'VE HEARD OF JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY, WITH ALL THE GROUPS I'VE BEEN IN AND ALL THE PLACES I'VE HUNG OUT!
BESIDES, IF HE KNEW ME --

-- HE'D KNOW THE MORE TIGHTLY MASSED THE OPPONENTS, THE EASIER AN ARCHER CAN PICK 'EM OFF!

AND THE DEFEAT OF SO MANY DEMONS DOES SEND THE MYSTERIOUS MASTER PANDEMONIUM SOARING SKYWARD --
-- YET IS THERE IN HIS DEEP-SET EYES, A GLEAM OF... RELIEF...?
IF SO --

-- IT VANISHES IN THE FLOOD OF TEARS BROUGHT ON BY HAWKEYE'S NEXT WELL-TARGETED SHAFT!

AND AS HE DROPS BACK TOWARD THE EARTH --
THE BUILDING'S BRACED AGAIN, MADMAN!
AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE!

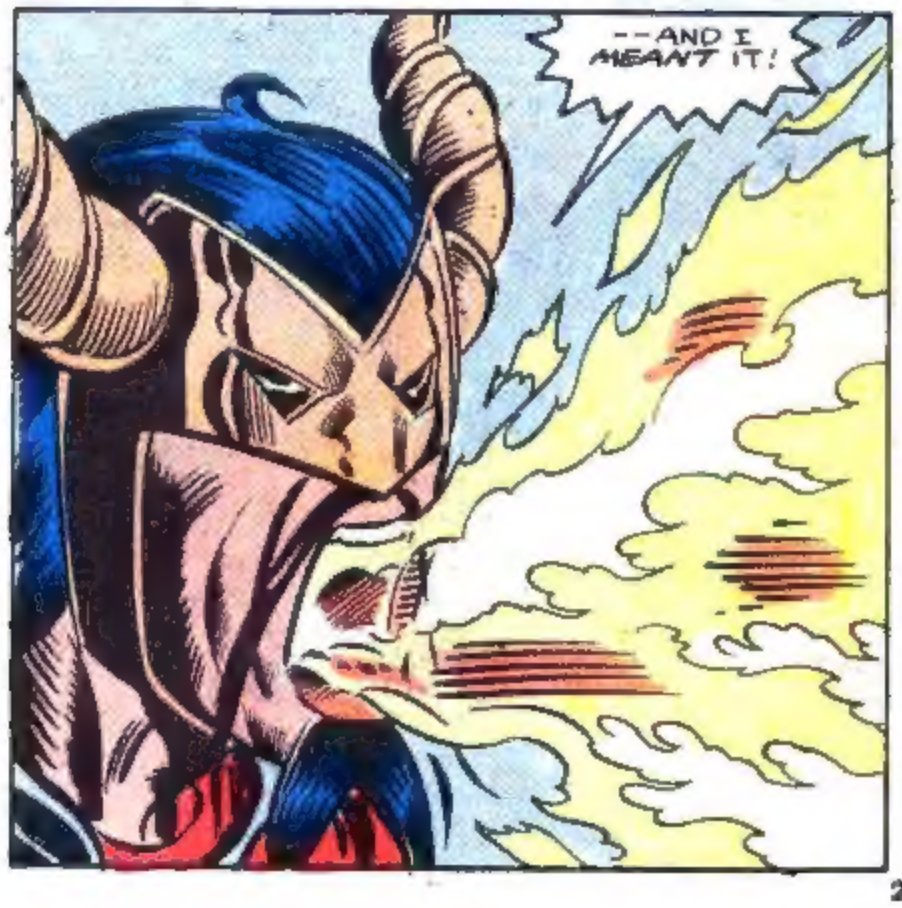
I CAN TELL YA ONE THING--YA WON'T FOOL ME WITH THAT ARM TRICK AGAIN!
WHY SHOULD I--

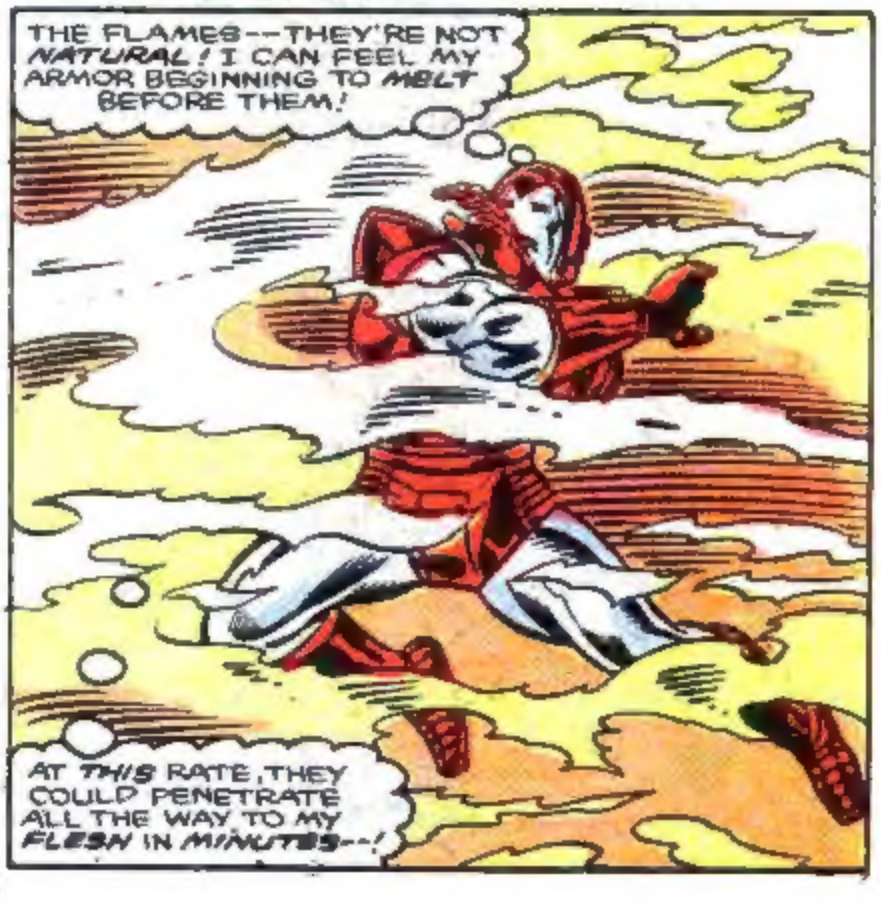
--WHEN MY LEGS COME FREE AS WELL?
OH, MY ACHIN' BACK!

AND WHAT I LOSE IN SURPRISE, I REGAIN IN THE SHEER MIGHT OF MY TWIN-ARMED ATTACK!
HE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING THERE, AVENGERS!
BUT WHAT'S HE GOING TO USE AGAINST IRON MAN?

FOOLS! EVEN WITHOUT THESE ARMS AND LEGS, I REMAIN MASTER PANDEMONIUM!
FEAR MASTER NOT! I YOU HAVE!
MY SAFETY WINGS TO CAN YOU CARRY!

IN ALL MY YEARS OF AVENGING, I'VE NEVER MET ANY CREATURE THAT SPOKE SUCH RELENTLESS NONSENSE, BIRD--
--BUT FORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND YOU TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING--AND TO STOP IT!
UNDERSTAND ME, THEN, IRON MAN! I TOLD YOU I WAS NOT YET HELPLESS--


--AND I MEANT IT!

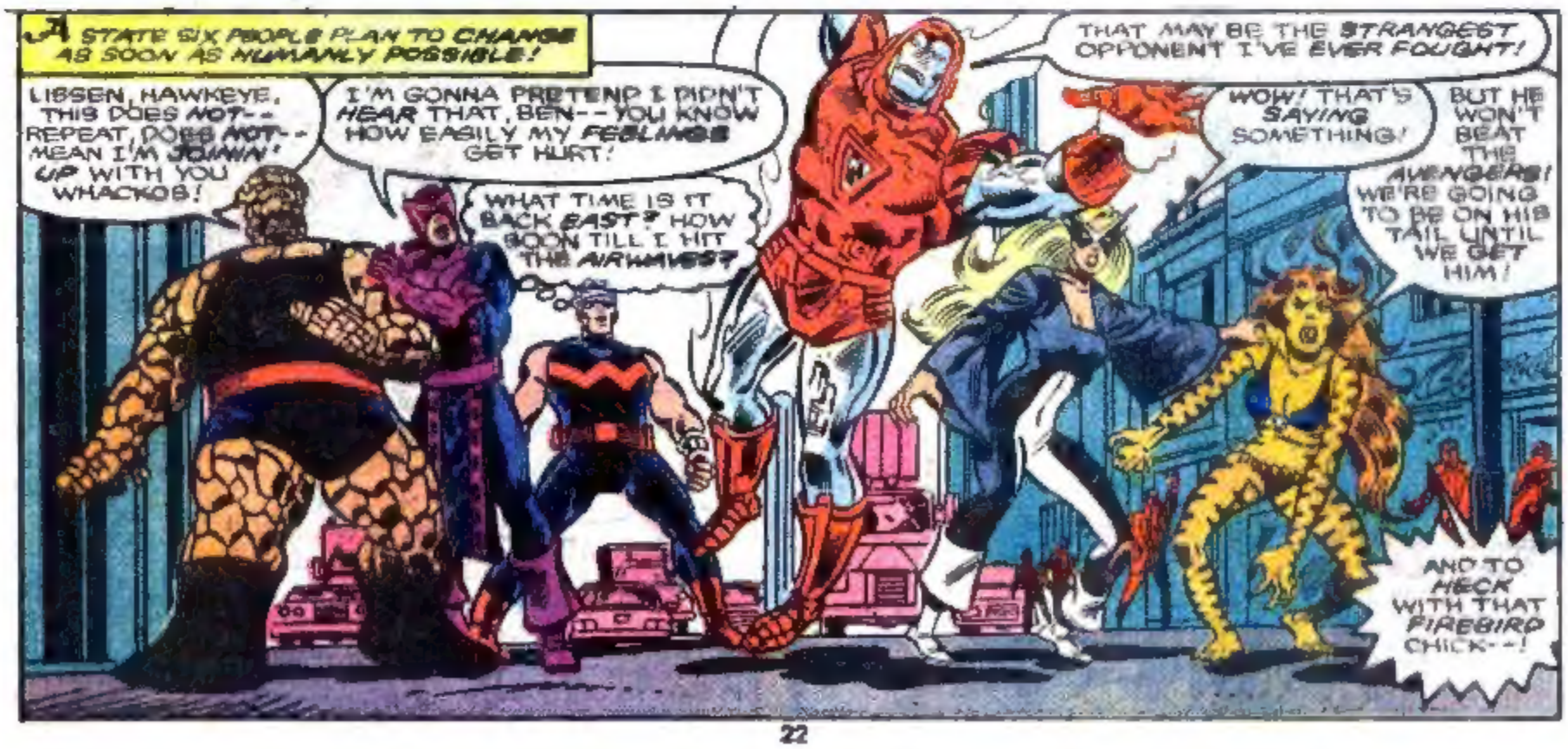

THE FLAMES--THEY'RE NOT NATURAL! I CAN FEEL MY ARMOR BEGINNING TO MELT BEFORE THEM!
AT THIS RATE, THEY COULD PENETRATE ALL THE WAY TO MY FLESH IN MINUTES--!

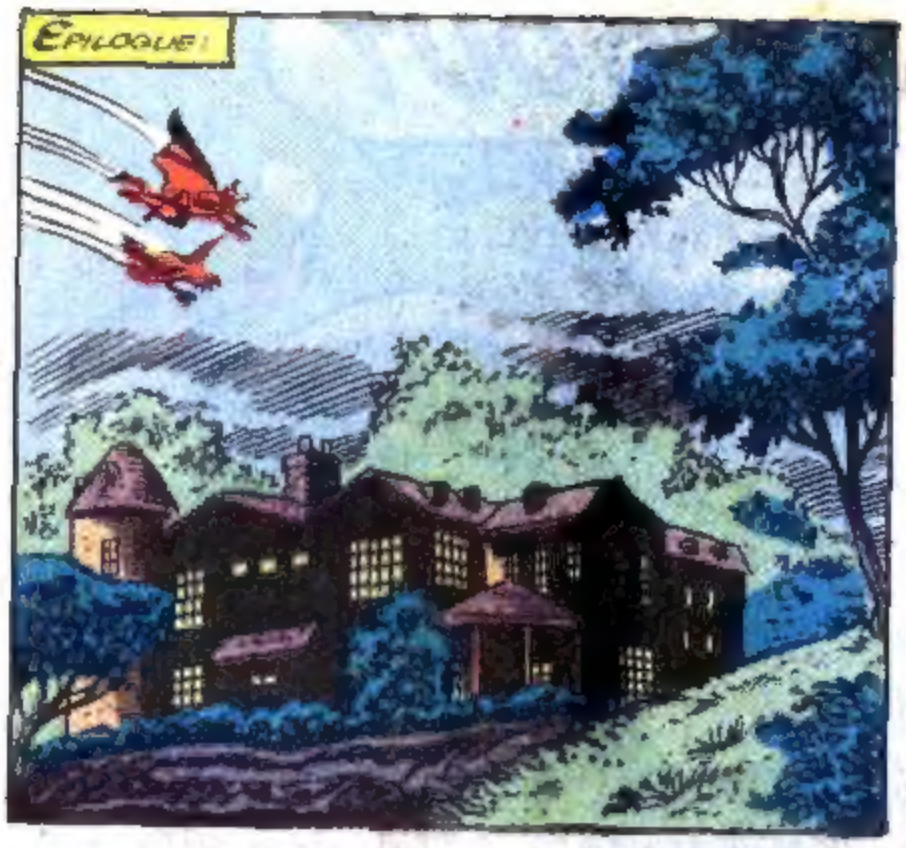
BUT I WON'T RUN! I DIDN'T BECOME A HERO AGAIN TO TURN TAIL AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DANGER!
THE BEST WAY TO AVOID THOSE FLAMES IS TO TURN THEM OFF ALTOGETHER--

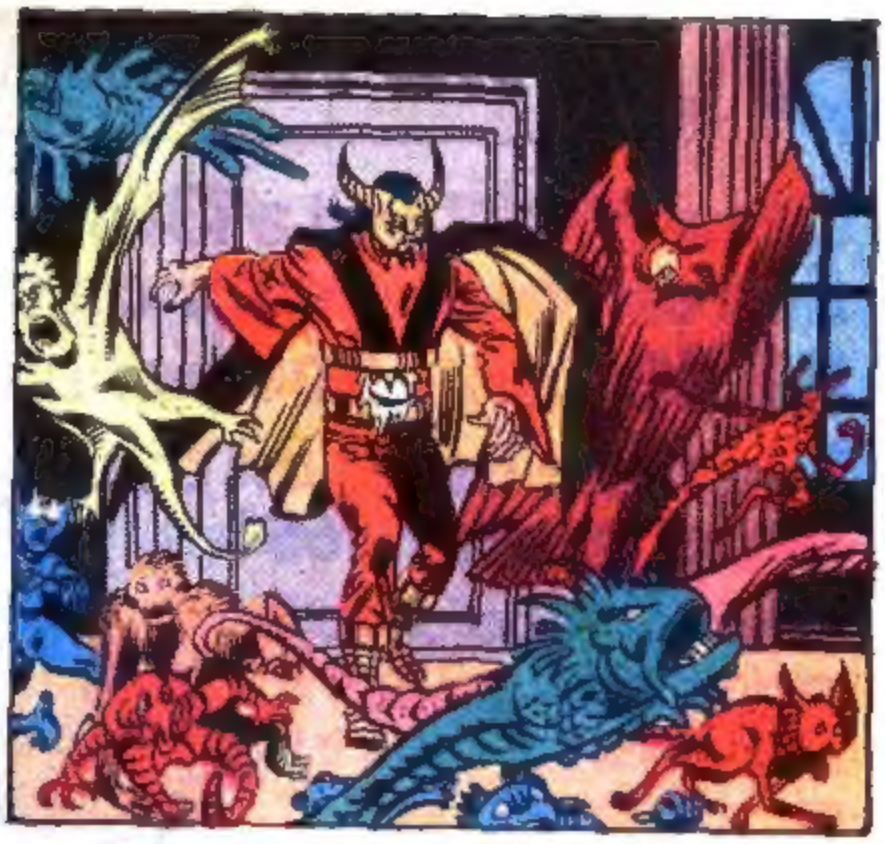
--AND THAT'S JUST--
OH, NO--MY FIST WENT ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIM!

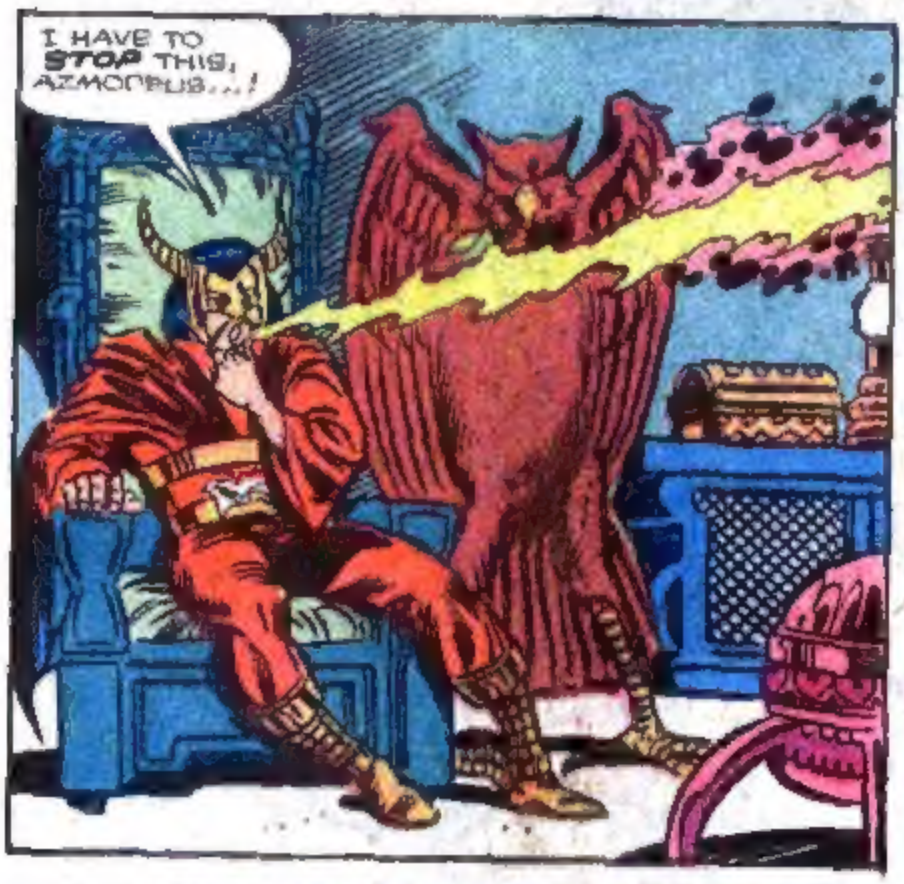
AND WHILE TONY STARK'S STILL WONDERING IF HE'S INADVERTENTLY KILLED HIS FOE--
--HIS FOE RECALLS HIS SCATTERED PARTS!
KLONG!

STUNNED, IRON MAN TUMBLES BACK THROUGH THE L.A. SKY--
--AND MASTER PANDEMONIUM FINALLY MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE--HIS ORIGIN AND PURPOSE STILL A TOTAL MYSTERY!


A STATE SIX PEOPLE PLAN TO CHANGE AS SOON AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE!
LISSEN, HAWKEYE, THIS DOES NOT--REPEAT, DOES NOT--MEAN I'M JOIN'IN' UP WITH YOU WHACKOS!
I'M GONNA PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT, BEN--YOU KNOW HOW EASILY MY FEELINGS GET HURT!
WHAT TIME IS IT BACK EAST? HOW SOON TILL I HIT THE AIRWAVES?
THAT MAY BE THE STRANGEST OPPONENT I'VE EVER FOUGHT!
WOW! THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING!
BUT HE WON'T BEAT THE AVENGERS! WE'RE GOING TO BE ON HIS TAIL UNTIL WE GET HIM!
AND TO HECK WITH THAT FIREBIRD CHICK--!







NEXT: VILLAIN--VILLAIN--WHO'S GOT THE--VILLAIN?